SABARKANTHA DISTRICT GAZETTEER

GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS

Government of Gujarat

SABARKANTHA DISTRICT

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PREFACE

The Sabarkantha district was carved out of several States and Estates of the Mahi Kantha Agency and a portion of the Ahmedabad district in 1949. As such, there was no separate Gazetteer of the Sabarkantha district. Considerable portion of the district formerly formed part of the Mahi Kantha Agency. References to the States and Estates of the Mahi Kantha Agency are found in the *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Volume V—*Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, prepared by Mr. J. M. Campbell and published in 1880, and its supplements Volume V-B (1905) and the *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Volume V-B *Mahi Kantha* (1926). Further references about the States of the Mahi Kantha Agency are found in the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Volume XVII (1908), Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government, No. XII-New Series, " The Memoir on the Mahee Kantha " prepared by Captain J. R. Keily in 1845 and published in 1855 and the Mahi Kantha Directory published by Framroz Sorabji Master in 1922. For the areas of Prantij and Modasa, information is available in the *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Volume IV-*Ahmedabad* (1879). In the nature of things, there cannot be a consistent and comprehensive account, historical and otherwise, of the States and Estates, which now constitute the Sabarkantha district. This is, therefore, the first Gazetteer of the Sabarkantha district. It is prepared on the basis of the publications referred to above and the Annual Administration Reports of the Mahi Kantha Agency published by the Bombay Government and the Annual Administration Reports of the States of Idar, Mohanpur, Vijaynagar, Sathamba and others All these documents throw light on the past history of the States and Estates. As they were placed under the administrative control of the Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, the primary concern of the British was to maintain law and order and ensure punctual payment of the tributes and other Government dues. Among the States, Idar was the only progressive State, which generally looked after the welfare of its people. Other States could hardly provide a modicum of welfare amenities because of lack of resources. In view of the large areas under the forests there were not enough roads and sufficient means of transport. There was minimum mobility of the people. The territory lacked the infrastructure of development. This was the position when the Sabarkantha district was formed in 1949 out of the States and Estates of the former Mahi Kantha Agency and Prantij Taluka and Modasa Mahal of the Ahmedabad district.

This is the 10th Gazetteer in the series of the District Gazetteers published by the Government of Gujarat. Since the material available was scanty, the net had to be cast wide to secure sufficient data for preparing the District Gazetteer. Material was obtained from the Archives of

Maharashtra Government at Bombay, the Central Record Office, Baroda and the reports on the constituent States and Estates of the Alienation Enquiry Officer for the Gujarat States (1951). As usual, the latest information for different chapters was obtained from the officers of the district. Wherever possible, information was obtained from voluntary organisations and other non-government institutions.

The work on this volume was begun in July, 1970 and completed in December 1971 under the stewardship of my predecessor, Dr. G. D. Patel. who handed over charge on 18th October, 1973. After taking over, I expendited the printing process.

The Sabarkantha district has certain unique features which are generally not found in other districts of Gujarat. To begin with, the district has a long continuous record of history. The excavations at *Devni Mori* (Bhiloda) have brought to light the Buddhist influence as evidenced by the Vihar built there in the 3rd century A. D. In 640 A. D., the Chinese scholar, Hiuen Tsiang visited Vadali (Idar taluka). During the medieval period, the Turks attacked the fort of Modasa in 1298 A. D. Subsequently, there were inroads and invasions from the Sultans of Gujarat and the Mughal Emperors of Delhi. During this period, Rao Rulers of the Hindu State of Idar offered stiff resistance to maintain their political identity. The Maratha connections with Idar were established in 1766, after the Baroda army under Appa Saheb secured half share from the revenue from Rao Shivsingh of Idar. The subsequent years were a period of political and administrative confusion. The British, therefore, first intervened in 1812, when Major Ballantyne effected settlement of the Gaekwad's tribute. In 1820 by an agreement between the Gaekwad and the British, the management of the Mahi Kantha was transferred to the British, as the Gaekwad was unable to maintain order among its Chiefs. The Revolt of 1857 did not touch the district directly but it had indirect impact on the law and order situation in the territory. This was evident from the revolts of the Gametis of Chandap in 1857 and of Surajmal, Thakor of Mudeti in 1858.

In architecture, perhaps the district may top the list in the whole of Gujarat. The excavations at *Devni Mori* have revealed that Gujarat had followers of the Buddhist religion. The Sun temples at Roda in the Himatnagar taluka are very ancient. The temple of Shamalaji in the Bhiloda taluka was built in the 11th century and has got picturesque natural surroundings. In the Vijaynagar taluka, there are the Jain marble temple at Lakhena, the Sharneshvar Mahadev temple and the old structures called *Sadevant-Savlinga ni Deris*. Khedbrahma has a unique distinction of having a standing image of Brahmaji, the Creator of the Universe.

The discovery of the flourishing Gupta and post-Gupta school of sculpture in the former Idar State (the Meshvo valley) has yielded the

beautiful Shamalaji sculptures of Matrukas and Vishvarupa Vishnu. These were first located and referred to by Shri Inamdar, Education Officer of the Idar State. Subsequently they were studied by Dr. Herman Goetz, former Curator, Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery, Baroda and Dr. M. R. Majmundar and their articles on Matrukas appeared in the Journal of the Gujarat Research Society. Dr. Umakant P. Shah wrote a scholarly article on the same in the Journal of the Indian Museum Volume IX. Shri Suryakant Chaudhary and (late) Dr. B. Subbarao of the Archaeology Department, M. S. University, Baroda also contributed much towards the study of Buddhist stupa at Devni Mori.

From the point of places of pilgrimage, the district can claim several outstanding places, such as Shamalaji, Torda and Bhavnath in the Bhiloda taluka, Khedbrahma and Gadhada-Shamalaji in the Khedbrahma taluka and Idar and Galateshwar in the Prantij taluka.

As regards population, the Adivasis form the dominant component having 13·94 per cent (1961). The backward classes including Harijans form another block of 8·54 per cent (1961). Thus, over 22 per cent of its population consist of Adivasis, Harijans and other backward classes Secondly, apart from the Dangs, which is an entirely rural district, Sabarkantha has a predominantly rural population (93·34 per cent). With 6·66 per cent of the urban population, it has the lowest concentration of urban population in the State. The people are, by and large, religious. In the whole of Gujarat, it is only in Sabarkantha that 2 Agnihotras are maintained, one at Bolundra (Modasa) and the other at Raigadh (Himatnagar). The district has produced several famous astrologers who have made a name in Bombay and other places. Further, it has produced outstanding literary persons such as Shri Umashanker Jethalal Joshi, former Vice-Chancellor of the Gujarat University, Shri Pannalal Patel, Shri Murli Thakur and others. Furthermore, the traditions of social service set up by the late Shri Mathurdas Laljibhai Gandhi (Modasa) and Shri Gangaram Kripashanker Shukla (Chitroda) are maintained by the subsequent social workers in the district.

Since 93·34 per cent of the population is rural, there is excessive dependence on agriculture. Major part of the district was formerly covered by forests and land under cultivation was not large. For development of agriculture, the Idar State attracted progressive cultivators from the Kaira and Surat districts in the south and the Kutch district in the north-west. They were allotted forest areas which were cleared and borught under the plough. These persons with large land holdings have come to be called Kampawalas. They have employed modern tools and techniques and changed the pattern of agricultural production by investment of capital and labour. As a result, 20·61 per cent of the cultivated area is under cotton, 21·65 per cent under groundnut and 18·22 per cent under maize (1968-69). As cotton and groundnut are the main cash crops of the district, they have made immense

impact on its agricultural economy. In fact, Kampawalas have been instru mental in achieving an agricultural break—through in the district. In orde to help small farmers, the Government of India (Ministry of Food an Agriculture) has selected the Sabarkantha district in the whole of Gujara for introduction of the scheme called the Small Farmers Development Agency It aims at boosting agricultural production by providing finance and technical guidance to small farmers.

As stated before, the district covers 20·61 per cent of the total area under cotton and produces 11,335 tonnes. As a result, several ginning factories have sprung up in the district at Himatnagar, Idar, Jadar, Modasa, Bayad and Sathamba. Recently, at Himatnagar, the Sabarkantha District Cotton Producers Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd., has been started with the financial assistance from the Government. Sabarkantha is one of the few districts in Gujarat which have co-operative spinning mills.

Except a few rivers such as the Sabarmati, the Hathmati, the Meshvo and the Vatrak, and the tanks of some States, there was no other source of irrigation before integration in 1949. Thereafter, 3 medium irrigation dams, one on the Meshvo river, the second on the Indrasi and the Hathmati rivers in the Bhiloda taluka and the third on the Harnav river in the Khedbrahma taluka now provide irrigation to the district. This has led to a considerable change in the cropping pattern.

The forests of the Idar and other States were thick and luxuriant before integration. After integration, the enforcement of the Land Reform Laws, particularly the Jagirs Abolition Act, has led to wanton destruction of the forest wealth of the district. At present, the forests cover only 19 per cent of the total area of the district which is much below the forest area at the time of the integration. Whatever forests are left, they are useful not only for the timber and fuel purposes but for the medicinal purposes also. The Poshina Patta of the district is called the "Garden of Medicinal Herbs", which awaits research by botanists and Ayurvedic physicians.

My grateful thanks are due to Shri Shriman Narayan, former Governor of Gujarat and Shri Ghanshyambhai Oza, former Chief Minister, who evinced keen interest in the preparation of the District Gazetteers. I am also indebted to Chief Secretary, Shri L. R. Dalal, I. C. S. for his continuous interest and competent guidance. I must acknowledge the hard work put in by Shri U. M. Chokshi, I/C. Deputy Editor and Shri M. R. Trivedi, Dr. A. P. Bhatt and Shri R. R. Trivedi, Research Officers and other research staff.

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Ahmedabad,
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Chief Editor.

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PART I

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Origin

The district previously belonged to Mahi Kantha Agency. In 1948 it was named as Mahi Kantha district. However, as the Mahi river did not traverse the district, the name Mahi Kantha was a misnomer. The name Mahi Kantha was changed into Sabarkantha as a result of agitation by social workers.[1] The district at present takes its name from the river Sabarmati which separates it from Banaskantha and Mehsana districts on the west.

Location

The district came into existence in August 1949 on account of the merger of 29 princely States and Estates and Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal of the former Ahmedabad district in the then Bombay State. On the east and north-east, the district is bounded by Rajasthan, on the west by the Banaskantha and Mehsana districts on the south by Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Kaira and Panchmahals districts. The western side of this district is bounded by the river Sabarmati, whereas the Arvalli hills form a natural boundary on the northern and eastern sides.

Area and Population

The area of the district is 7,364 sq. kms. The population of the district according to the Census of 1961 was 9,18,587, of whom 4,70,224 were males and 4,48,363 females.[2] The rural population of the district was 8,57,379 persons living in 1,500 villages as against the urban population of 61,208 persons spread over 5 towns of different sizes.

Administrative Divisions

As stated before, the district of Sabarkantha was formed in 1949, out of the former 29 Indian States and Estates of Vijaynagar, Idar, Ambaliara

1. Patel G. D. (Dr.), *Sabarkanthani Lokganga* ' Himatnagar, (1965), p. 227.

2. According to 1971 Census the population of the district was 11,87,637 of whom 6,04,546 were males and 5,83,091 were females. [Census 1971, Gujarat, *District Census Handbook*. *Sabarkantha District*, Ahmedabad, (1972).]

and other States of Sadra Division of the former Western India States Agency and Gadhavada thana. Besides these States, Modasa mahal and Prantij taluka of the former Ahmedabad district and some villages of Kaira, Panchmahals and Mehsana districts were added to it.

For the purposes of revenue administration, the district is divided into two sub-divisions with 8 talukas and 2 mahals. The details about the number of towns and villages and population are given in the following table as they existed in the year 1961.

STATEMENT I·1

Administrative Divisions, 1961

Sl. No.	Sub-Division/Taluka/Mahal	No. of towns	No. of villages	Population		
				Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	District Total	**5**	**1,537**	**918,587**	**857,379**	**61,[illegible]**
	Total for Himatnagar Sub-Division	*2*	*802*	*459,486*	*433,387*	*26,099*
1	Idar	1	217	153,426	142,614	10,812
2	Khedbrahma	..	153	74,475	74,475	..
3	Vijaynagar	..	94	30,111	30,111	..
4	Bhiloda	..	189	90,766	90,766	..
5	Himatnagar	1	149	110,708	95,421	15,287
	Total for Modasa Sub-Division	*3*	*735*	*459,101*	*423,992*	*35,109*
6	Prantij	2	135	144,475	125,450	19,025
7	Modasa	1	154	118,434	102,350	16,084
8	Meghraj	..	157	50,291	50,291	..
9	Malpur	..	123	38,214	38,214	..
10	Bayad	..	166	107,687	107,687	..

Source :
District Census Handbook, 1961, *Sabarkantha District*, p. 5.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The administrative history of the Sabarkantha district may broadly be divided into following periods :

(i) the Early period (upto 1412 A. D.)

(ii) the Muslim period (1412 to 1700 A. D.)

(iii) the Maratha period (1750 to 1811 A. D.)

(iv) the British period (1820 to 1947 A. D.)

(v) the Post-Independence period (from 1947 onwards)

It will appear from the above that the administrative history is divided into different stages according to the dynasty of rulers.

(i) *The Early Period*[1] (upto 1412 A. D.)

The administrative history of the territories included in the Sabarkantha district centres mainly round the history of the Idar State. The traditions of that fortress date back to the mythical times, when, in the *Dvapar Yug* or third age, its rulers, Elvan the Rakshas and his brother Vatapi, were destroyed by Agastya Rishi. The earliest settlers, both rulers and ruled, were the tribes now known as Bhils and Kolis. The next comers were Rajputs, whose arrival in the Mahi Kantha seems to date from the establishment of Arab power in Sindh and the fall of Valabhinagar in the eighth century. In the eleventh century, the Muslim destruction of Nagar Tatta in Sindh drove the Parmar Rajputs, and in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the further advance of Musalman power, drove many other Rajput tribes, the Parmars of Chandravati, the Rathods of Kanouj, and the Chavdas of Anhilvada south into the Mahi Kantha hills. To the Chandravati Parmars belong the houses of Mohanpur, Ranasan, Rupal, Vadgam, and Bolundra; and to the Kanouj Rathods belong the houses of Malpur, Valasna and Magodi. By intermarriage with the Kolis many of these Rajputs lost caste, only keeping the names of the Rajput clans, Makvana, Dabi and Bariya, to which their forefathers belonged In the fifteenth century came the Vaghela houses of Pethapur[2] and Posina.

(ii) *The Muslim Period (1412 A. D. to 1700 A. D.)*

After the supremacy of the Ahmedabad kings was established (1412 A. D.), many Rajputs, the chiefs of Ilol, Likhi and Gabat, in reward for service, and Dabha and Ramas, offshoots of the house of Mandva, because they agreed to embrace Islam, received grants of land. The decline of the Ahmedabad dynasty (1540 A. D.-1570 A. D.) favoured the increase of local power. Under the Mughals, for more than half a century, only every five or ten years, when specially well supplied with troops, did the Viceroy levy contributions in the Mahi Kantha.[3] Not till the latter half of the seventeenth century did the Mughals succeed in levying a regular tribute.

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1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), pp. 361-362.

2. The village of Pethapur is included in the Gandhinagar district.

3. *Ras Mala*, 340.

(iii) *The Maratha Period (1750 A. D. to 1811 A. D.)*

In the early years of the eighteenth century Mughal decay was accompanied by the revival of local independence. But, about the middle of the century, this was again suppressed by the Marathas, who, settling in the province, levied tribute,[1] from all except the poorest and most out-of-the-way chiefs. Every two or three years, the Baroda Government collected tribute by means of a military force, but, losing strength in the beginning of the nineteenth century, they failed to control their Mahi Kantha tributaries. As had been done in Kathiawar in 1807 A. D., it was, in 1811 A. D. arranged that the British Government should collect the tribute and pay it over to the Gaekwad, thus freeing the Baroda Government from the heavy burden of maintaining the revenue-collecting force, and freeing the province from the loss caused by its periodical marches (*mulkgiri*). The amount of tribute due was fixed on the basis of the past ten years' levies, and security was taken for its regular payment and for the tributaries' good behaviour.[2]

At the same time other claims, notably the Idar food, *khichdi*, demand collected from their vassals by local chiefs, remained untouched; and the Koli chiefs, either as their original share, *giras*, or as blackmail, *vol*, continued to collect small yearly levies from their quieter neighbours. This situation remained till, at the end of the 1818 A. D. campaign, the Peshwa's share of Gujarat fell to the British. Their new possessions brought the British Government into immediate contact with the surrounding unsettled, *mehvasi*, tribes of the Mahi Kantha and the interlacing of possessions and the confusion of authority ended in such general lawlessness that it was evident that some one power must become responsible for the maintenance of order. As the Gaekwad Government was unable to take this position, the management of the Mahi Kantha was, by an agreement concluded on the 3rd April, 1820, made over to the British Government. Under the terms of this agreement, the British Government undertook to collect and pay the tribute free of all expenses, the Gaekwad Government pledging itself not to send troops or in any way interfere with the districts. It was also agreed that expenses incurred in coercing a refractory chief should be recovered from his estate.[3]

1. Of the sixty-three Mahi Kantha States the only houses who paid no Baroda tribute were Pol, Magodi, Gabat, Timba, Vadagam, Ranipura, Bolundra, Likhi and Umbri.

2. *Bombay Government Selections*, XII. 6. For the text of the treaty see ditto pp. 282-285, and *Aitchison's Treaties*, (1876), IV. 71.

   There the treaty of sixteen articles is said to be the one made by Colonel Ballantyne in 1812. But it seems that the original agreement was altered in 1814, in 1818, in 1821 and in 1822 and that it was in 1830 that the final agreement was concluded by Colonel Miles and his assistant, Leintenant Prescott, Political Agent, 1057 of 30th September, 1879.

3. *Bombay Government Selections*, XII. 7. For the text of the treaty see *Aitchison's Treaties*, (1876), IV, 235.

   Cited in the *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch*, *Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), p. 382.

(iv) *The British Period (1820 A. D. to 1947)*

The prominent authority in the Mahi Kantha was thus established in 1820 A. D., when the first treaty was signed by all the Chiefs of the Mahi Kantha. By this treaty Colonel Ballantyne tried to achieve the following three objectives :—

(1) the restoration of peace to the country and satisfactory security for its future tranquillity,

(2) the collection of all arrears due to the Gaekwad, with full security for the regular future payment of the tribute, and

(3) the settlement of the Raja of Idar's territory.

The Chiefs were bound to observe the following articles.

(1) to abstain from plundering, (2) to surrender plunderers, (3) to resist and destroy all plunderers, (4) to abstain from private war, (5) to refer all disputes to arbitration, and (6) to protect the passage of merchants in their territories.

In 1838 A. D. Sir James Outram instituted Border Panchayats for the settlement of the numerous blood feuds and disputes between the wild Bhils on the Mahi Kantha and Rajputana frontier. The system, which was one of money compensation for crime, was found to be effective in preventing reprisals and maintaining peace. The Border Courts Rules were revised in 1873 A. D. and 1877 A. D. The joint court met every year when the Political Agents of Mahi Kantha and Rajputana met on the border to settle the disputes. At the commencement of 1839 A. D., a very important benefit was conferred on the Mahi Kantha, by the introduction of the Court of Criminal Justice, for the trial of all serious offences through the Agency of the Political Agent with Chiefs as assessors. The establishment of this tribunal had a most salutary effect upon all classes and proved a powerful auxiliary in restraining crime Government prohibited the system of Bharwateeism and proclamations were issued throughout the province making the offence penal, and subjecting the party offending to severe punishment. In 1885-86 A. D., the Gaekwad's Contingent was withdrawn and regular mounted and foot police was substituted by the Agency police force from the subsidy paid by Baroda. In 1886-87 A. D., the total abolition of transit dues throughout the province was effected.

(v) *The Post-Independence Period (1947 A. D. onwards)*

The administrative history of the district after Independence can be divided into two administrative stages.

(1) the integration of States and Estates in the district (1948-49 A. D.) and

(2) the bifurcation of the Bombay State (1960 A. D.).

Prior to Independence, the present territories of the district were occupied by 29 States and Estates like Idar, Ambaliara, Malpur, Bayad, etc. The Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal of former Ahmedabad district were added to it. The States and Estates were merged in the district in 1949 in accordance with the Merger Agreement signed by the Rulers in 1948 A. D.

In November 1956, the States were reorganised and a bigger bilingual State of Bombay was formed with Vidarbha, Marathawada, Saurashtra and Kutch regions. This reorganisation, however, did not affect the size of the Sabarkantha district.

Lastly, the Bombay State was bifurcated on 1st May, 1960 A. D. and separate States of Gujarat and Maharashtra were formed. Since that date, the district became part of the Gujarat State.

TERRITORIAL CHANGES

It has been observed previously that the present Sabarkantha district consists of 29 States and Estates. After the merger of various Princely States with the State of Bombay in 1949 A. D. the district became a part of former Bombay State. Between 1951 A. D. and 1961 A. D. though there were no major territorial changes, there was an increase in area of 288.00 sq. miles since 1951 A. D. due to survey of unsurveyed areas. Details of those names/areas which have undergone changes since 1951 A. D., have been shown in the Annexure I given at the end of the Chapter.

It may be pointed out that in 1961 A. D., the total number of villages in the district was 1,543, while in 1970 A. D. the number was 1,422.[1] It would thus appear that as compared to 1961 A. D. the number of villages in 1970 A. D., have decreased. The decrease is due to amalgamation of deserted villages into adjacent villages as per the orders of Government.

Physical Features[2]

CONFIGURATION

The configuration of the district varies from gently undulating with low hill ranges to steep hilly countryside running all along the eastern

1. District Inspector of Land Records, Sabarkantha.
2. The section on Physical Features is based on the following documents :
   (i) DIXIT K. R., *Geography of Gujarat*, New Delhi, (1970).
   (ii) JADAV S. P., *Working Schemes of the Sabarkantha Forest*, (1959).
   (iii) Census of India, 1961, *District Census Handbook, Sabarkantha District*, Ahmedabad, (1964).

border of the district touching Rajasthan State. In other words, the district can be divided into two zones, *viz.*, the hilly religion and the plains. The range of the Aravalli hills covers the northern and eastern parts of the district and takes a southward turn on the border of the district. The hilly tract known as Poshina Patti area comprises the north and north-east parts covering Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar, Meghraj, Malpur and parts of Idar talukas/mahals. The highest elevation reached is about 800 ft. (243·84 metres). The hills are a part and parcel of the chain of Aravalli hills which are found as long continuous strips of detached hills. In topographic details, the Aravalli outliers in the north of the district are bare granite rocks. Vijaynagar, Dholwani and part of Bhiloda ranges are more hilly. The hills of these ranges are interlinked by either ravines or indentations or forms a long continuous chain. A bird's-eye view of these hills reveals a picturesque surrounding being a rugged region broken by numerous great rounded or pointed hill masses with occasional steep falls or by smaller hillocks. The topography of the rest of the tract is generally flat or undulating. It may be pointed out that the southern and western parts of the district are mostly sandy. This plain tract covers Prantij, Himatnagar, Bayad and parts of Idar and Modasa talukas.

HILLS

More rugged and formidable are the highlands occupying parts of the Sabarkantha district. The Sabarkantha highlands are formed by the outliers of the Aravalli hills and are drained by the river Sabarmati and its tributaries. The ranges of Aravalli hills which take a southern turn on the border of the district form a natural boundary. The hills are mainly situated on the northern and eastern portions as stated above

DRAINAGE : RIVER SYSTEM[1]

The district at present is traversed by 7 perennial rivers, *viz.*, the Sabarmati, the Hathmati, the Meshvo, the Mazum, the Vatrak, the Harnav and the Khari. Broadly speaking, the Sabarmati river flows from north to south along the western borders of the district, and other rivers flow practically from north-east to south-west.

In addition to the perennial rivers mentioned above there are number of small other rivers in the district such as the Indrasi, the Sai, the Guhai, the Vakal, the Vekri, the Debhol the Bhekai, the Sakri, the Budheli, the Kosambi, and the Varansi.

1. The section is based on the information supplied by :
   (i) Executive Engineer, Water Resources Investigation Division, Ahmedabad.
   (ii) Executive Engineer, Sabarkantha Canal Division, Himatnagar.
   (iii) The Collector, Sabarkantha District, Himatnagar.
   (iv) PATEL G. D. (DR.), *Sabarkanthani Lokganga*, Himatnagar, (1965).
   (v) DIKSHIT K. R., *Geography of Gujarat*, New Delhi, (1970).

The Sabarmati

The river Sabarmati originates in the outliers of the Aravallis. It has a total length of over 300 kms. and an extensive catchment area. It has high banks particularly in its upper reaches, where they sometimes rise to a height of 60 metres. Even in the lower parts, the river has well-marked bluffs rising from 10 to 15 metres above its bed. The widely swinging river has left occasional mud deposits in its lower course. These deposits locally called *bhathas* are very fertile. It is the largest and most important river of the district after which the district has been named. It originates in the Mewad hills of Rajasthan. It flows in 4 talukas of the district, *viz*., Khedbrahma. Idar. Himatnagar and Prantij. In the Khedbrahma taluka it passes by the following villages, *viz*., Ambasar, Delwada, Chhochhar, Matarwada, Ganer, Demti, Choliya, Golwada, Dotad, Lambadiya, Tembada, Kheroj, Changod, Ratanpur. Dan Mahudi. Pathora, Panthal, Ambaigadh, Tokara and Lank. Then the river enters the Idar taluka. In this taluka it touches the following villages, *viz*., Marvada, Bhanpur, Mahor, Rampur, Surpur, Golwada, Kalyanpura. Falasan, Sardarpur, Jaliya, Sudrasana, Madhava, Sundarpur, Eklara. Kishorgadh. Davad and Arsodiya.

Thereafter, the river enters the Himatnagar taluka. In this taluka, the following villages are touched by it, *viz*., Jorapur. Prempur, Kadoli, Rangpur. Dedhrota, Derol. Sahebapura, Saroli, Pethapur and Mahadevpura. Lastly, it enters the Prantij taluka. In this taluka, the river passes by the following villages, *viz*., Vaghpur. Galesra, Oran. Sitwada. Poyda, Indrajpur and Ged.

It receives the following tributaries during its course. The river Sai joins the river Sabarmati near the village Gholwada (Khedbrahma taluka). The river Hathmati joins the river Sabarmati near the village Moyad (Prantij taluka). The river Harnav joins the river Sabarmati near the village Marvada (Idar taluka) The river Pamni joins the river Sabarmati near the village Kalakhetra (Khedbrahma taluka)

The Hathmati

The river Hathmati rises in the Mewad hills of Rajasthan. It passes south-west for about 56 kms through the district, falling into the Sabarmati near the village Moyad (Prantij taluka). Alike the river Sabarmati throughout the year, it passes between high rough banks, first over a rocky and then through a sandy bed. Between 1869 A. D. and 1873 A D, a weir was built across the river and its surplus water which was not required for the use of the people of Himatnagar and other places was diverted. A Dam near Mankdi (Bhiloda taluka) has been constructed in the year 1966 A D. and its water is used for irrigation purposes. The river passes through 1 mahal and 3 talukas of the district, *viz*., Vijaynagar

mahal and Bhiloda, Himatnagar and Prantij talukas. During its course in Vijaynagar mahal, it passes by the following villages, *viz.*, Chitariya, Pal. Movatpur, Amodara, Biladia, Samaiya, Jasawada, Dantod, Masota, Chithoda, Parvath, Itavadi and Kanadar. Thereafter, the river enters the Bhiloda taluka. In this taluka, the river passes by the following villages : Chorimala, Jejudi, Jayla, Antharia, Bavalia, Ubsal, Bolundra, Kantharia, Vansli, Bhiloda, Kalleka, Chiboda, Lokhan, Rampur, Thuravas, Fatehpur, Siholi and Mankdi. Thereafter, it flows in the Himatnagar taluka. In this taluka, it passes by the following villages, *viz.*, Balochpur, Rajpur, Himatnagar, Katvad, Hapa, Mahadevpura and Kundol. Then it enters the Prantij taluka. In this taluka, it flows past the villages of Ged, Sapad, Morvad, and meets the Sabarmati river at Moyad.

Under the Hathmati reservoir project two earthen dams have been constructed, one across the river Indrasi at the village Fatehpur (1963 A D.) and another one on the river Hathmati near the village Mankdi (1966 A. D.).[1]

The Meshvo

The Meshvo river originates in the Mewad hills of Rajasthan. It runs parallel to the river Khari and after a course of about 202·77 kms. joins the river Vatrak near Kheda. In the district it passes through 3 talukas, *viz.*, Bhiloda, Modasa and Prantij. In the Bhiloda taluka the river passes by the following villages : Samran, Vaktapur, Shamalaji, Kheranch, Asal, Vandiol, Gadadar and Sunokh. Then it enters the Modasa taluka. It flows past 17 villages in this taluka, *viz.*, Nandisan, Bamanvad, Bolundra, Rajpur, Mahadevpura, Jivanpur, Rakhiyal, Medhasan, Khumapur, Kabola Vantada, Lachhai, Nani Chichano, Gadha, Nava Vadvasa, Juna Vadvasa and Ramos. Thereafter, it flows through the Prantij taluka. In this taluka the river passes by the following villages, *viz.*, Nava Kathvada, Antroli, Mota Chekhla, Tajpur Sultanpur, Mohanpur, Ranasan, Harsol, Aniod, Badodra, Padusan, Tajpur Camp, Simalia, Malvan and Lalpur.

One earthen dam across the river Meshvo near Shamalaji in Bhiloda taluka has been constructed. The construction of dam was completed in 1964 A. D.

The Mazum

The river Mazum rises in the hills of the Dungarpur district of Rajasthan. After traversing about 25·75 kms. south-west through Modasa and Vadagam, joins the river Vatrak near village Ambaliyara of the Bayad taluka Its bed is in many places rocky. The river passes through 3 talukas of the district, *viz.*, Meghrai, Modasa and Bayad

1. The details have been given in the Chapter IV–Agriculture and Irrigation.

In Meghraj taluka, it passes by the following villages, *viz.*, Ged, Rellawada, Mahudi and Shangal. Then it enters the Modasa taluka. It touches the following villages, *viz.*, Vaniyad, Kokapur, Mora, Munshiwada, Volva, Sayara, Modasa, Bajkot, Ganeshpur, Pahadpur, Sitpur, Hathipura, Modarsumba, Dhunawada, Garudi, Khadoda, Shinol, Kanjodia, Dolpur, Jalampur, Jamtha, Kanal, Vadagam, Jitpur, Khilodiya and Alwa. Thereafter, it flows through the Bayad taluka. The villages touched in this taluka are Nana Chandarej, Vajepura, Vasani, Tenpur, Amaliyara, Bhundasan, Junwada and Manpur.

The Vatrak

The river Vatrak originates in the hills of Dungarpur of Rajasthan and enters the district near village Moydi of Meghraj taluka and runs in the south-west direction of the district. It is joined by the river Mazum and other streams. After a course of 243 kms. it falls into the Sabarmati near Dholka (Ahmedabad district). In eastern part of its course, it flows over a rocky bed between rough banks through wild and picturesque country. Before entering the district, it covers a distance of about 29 kms. in Rajasthan. It covers a total length of about 84 kms. in the district. It passes through 2 talukas and one mahal of the district, *viz.*, Meghraj and Bayad talukas and the Malpur mahal.

In the Meghraj taluka, it passes by the following villages : Motimori, Jitpur, Relyo, Meghraj, Banthivada, Sisodara and Pisal. Thereafter the river enters the Malpur mahal. The villages touched by it in the mahal are Gajan, Kanswada, Piprana, Pahadia, Magodi and Khalikpur. Thereafter it flows through the Bayad taluka. In this taluka it passes by the following villages, *viz.*, Saradi-Salkhandi, Dahegamda, Bibipura, Vantda and Dabha.

The Harnav

The river Harnav rises in the Malwa hills of Rajasthan. It enters the district near the village Khokhra in the Vijaynagar mahal. It passes through rocky and forest areas. After a course of 61 kms., it meets the river Sabarmati near the village Marvada (Idar taluka). A weir was built near Sharneshwar of the Vijaynagar mahal for the purpose of irrigation. At present the weir is not properly maintained.

The river passes through one mahal and 2 talukas of the district, namely, Vijaynagar, Khedbrahma and Idar. In the Vijaynagar mahal, it touches Khokhra, Sarsav, Vandhol, Abhapur, Atarsumba, Ladliwada and Parosada. Then, it enters the Khedbrahma taluka. The villages touched by it in this taluka are Kalol, Derol, Khedbrahma, Vasana, Metral and Delwada. Then it flows through the Idar taluka. In this taluka, it touches Nadri, Nakod, Bhanpur and Marwada villages.

The Khari

The river is a small stream which rises in the centre of the district. It joins the Sabarmati near the village Dholka. It passes through the Prantij taluka of the district and touches the following villages, *viz.*, Asroda, Mauchha, Amodra, Chandpur, Chhadarda, Vadhrota, Mahadevpura, Ghadi, Lalpur, Jenpur, Badarni Muvadi, Amrapur, Rupal, Baini Muvadi, Kesharpur and Mudhasana.

The Indrasi

The Indrasi is also a small stream in the district and it originates in the hills situated near the village Vagheshvari in the Bhiloda taluka. It passes through only one taluka, namely, Bhiloda. The villages touched by it are : Vagheshvari, Kishangadh, Lilchha, Mau, Khapreta, Meru, Medi Timba, Naroda and Mankdi. The Government has constructed a dam near village Mankdi.

The Sai

The river Sai rises in the Aravalli hills. It passes through Poshina, Salera, Chandrana and Ambamahuda of the Khedbrahma taluka. After a course of 103 kms., it meets the river Sabarmati near village Gholwada (Khedbrahma taluka). It flow for about 40 kms. in the district.

The Guhai

The river Guhai starts from the village Medh in Idar taluka. It passes through the villages of Bhutiya Detroli, Badoli, Budhiya, Kukadiya, Sherpur, Kesharpura, Ankala and Bhadresar in the Idar taluka and Dholpur, Khandhol, Vasna, Rampur and Balochpur of the Himatnagar taluka. Its total length is 38·62 kms. The river meets the Hathmati river near the village Balochpur.

The Vakal

The river Vakal rises in the Aravalli hills After traversing a course of 157·71 kms., it meets the river Sabarmati at 64·37 kms of its course. The river flows for about 32 kms. in the district

The Vekri

The Vekri river also issues from the Aravalli hills. It passes by the villages of Gajipur Chandap, Vartol, Veda and Kamboya of Idar taluka.

It meets the river Sabarmati at 154·49 kms. of its course. It flows for about 20·92 kms. in the district.

The Debhol

The Debhol river issues from the Idar hills and passes by the village Jadar of Idar taluka and enters the Himatnagar taluka of the district.

The Bhekai (Bhenska)

The river Bhekai originates from the hills near the village Mudeti of Idar taluka and passes by Kanpur and Chitroda villages and meets the river Guhai (Ghauav) at Sabli village of Idar taluka.

The Sakri

The river Sakri is a tributary of the Mazum river. At Munshivada village it gets separated and one of its course touches the village Sakaria. The river is, therefore, called Sakri river. Thereafter it flows past Bherunda, Dolpur and Bhensawada villages of Modasa taluka and meets the river Mazum at Bhensawada village.

The Vekri

This is another river Vekri which originates from the hills near Idar and flows by Mathasui and meets the river Guhai at Naraneshwar temple in Lalpur village in the Idar taluka.

The Budheli

The river Budheli originates from the Aravalli hills in Rajasthan and flows past the villages of Budheli, Torda, Takatuka and Golvani of the Bhiloda taluka and meets the river Hathmati at Chiboda village of the Bhiloda taluka.

The Kosambi

The Kosambi river passes through Khedbrahma taluka and meets the river Harnav at Khedbrahma. The villages touched by it in the taluka are Khedva and Basol.

The Varansi

The river Varansi comes from the village Virpur of the Kheda district and flows through Bayad taluka and meets the river Vatrak at Kapadvanj.

GEOLOGY[1]

The rock formations met with in the district, arranged in order of their increasing antiquity, are as follows :

Alluvium, Soil	Recent to Sub-Recent
Laterites	Cretaceous-Eocene
Mafic Intrusives	
Deccan Traps	
Himatnagar Series	
unconformity	
Idar Granite	Post Delhi
Ultramafics	
Delhi System Ajabgarh Series / Alwar Series	Late Precambrian
Aravalli System	Archaean

The Aravalli System of formations occurring extensively in the district comprises the the following principal rock types :

Calc-gneisses, mica-and hornblende-schists, chlorite-and serioite-schists, biotite-gneisses, slates, phyllites, quartzites and crystalline limestones.

Many hills and knolls consist of calc-gneisses, which strike north to north-east and dip at steep angles in Vadali, Khedbrahma and Golwada areas. They are generally complicated in their foliation and banding but have a general north-north-east strike. The rock is roughly equidimentional and a granular aggregate of calcite along with varying amount of quartz felspar (generally orthoclase and microcline) diopside, hornblende and sphene. Besides these, at places, biotite, a little graphite, pyrite, scapolite, zoisite, wollastonite and minute garnet grains are also associated. At places, the gneisses are intruded by aplite veins.

Mica-and hornblende-schists, chlorite-and sericite-schists and biotite-gneisses are exposed east of Golwada and white calc-gneisses are found near Chandap, Navavas, Wasan, Metora and Semlia. It is also exposed north-east, east and south-east of Khedbrahma near Valaran, Dijio, Derol, Damanvas and Medh. Biotite-gneisses are well foliated, medium-grained and perfectly gneissic in structure.

Delhi System—The Delhi System of rocks occurring in the district are sub-divided into the Alwar and the Ajabgarh Series.

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1. The Director, Geological Survey of India, Gujarat Circle, Ahmedabad.

ALWAR SERIES

The Alwar series consists mainly of massive quartzite, which forms the lowest member of the series. The other rocks of the series are phyllites, mica-schists and quartz-schists. Alwar quartzites form chains of small hill ranges. They are mainly exposed near Harnav river, Chorivad, between Hathmati and Guhai rivers, near Munati, Vasai, Chhapras, Kapratta, Khet, Jamla, Chithoda, Bhiloda, Dhuleta, Sathrol and Sardoi.

The quartzites are generally monotonous in their uniformity. The rocks are generally medium-to coarse-grained. In thin sections it shows a completely altered and recrystallized quartz mosaic, in which none of the original sedimentary outlines are preserved. It might be sometimes called a quartz-schist owing to the secondary crushing along parallel planes. It is generally a hard rock of pale grey or pink or purple or white colour. It is occasionally ferruginous and penetrated by quartz veins. The bedding is generally obscure.

AJABGARH SERIES

Ajabgarh series mainly consists of phyllites, mica-schists, limestones, calc-gneisses and calcareous mica-schists overlying the rocks of Alwar series. Prominent exposures are found in the upper valley of the Hathmati river near Dal, Kanadara, Thuravas, Tembana Math, Janali, Barnali, Navagam, Devnimori, Kundol, Meghraj and Modasa.

The limestone occurs as a well-bedded formation. It is fine to medium-grained in texture. When pure it is dark greyish in colour and presents a smooth desquamation surface ; when it is rather siliceous it has a lighter grey hue and ribbed surface, as a result of differential weathering (calcareous laminae weathering more than the intercalated siliceous bands). Such diffe-rentially weathered surface exhibits drag folds, crumplings and crenulations in a prominent manner. Contacts of the high grade limestone with the more siliceous beds of the same are gradational. In the high grade limestone, the original stratification is somewhat obscured by recrystallization and plastic flow during metamorphism.

Phyllites and mica-schists form valleys in between the limestone ridges The phyllites are markedly thin bedded rocks of slightly metamorphosed argillaceous type, but they are freely interbedded with more arenaceous quartzitic strata. Phyllites are generally pale or dark sombre tints of grey, brown, yellowish, purple and green. The rocks are composed predominantly of chlorite and biotite with quartz in fine grains. Magnetite is fairly common in rather large crystalline grains in some varieties especially near Mori, Thuravas and Tembana Math. The foliation is generally parallel to the regional strike north-north-east –South-south-west.

Calc-gneisses are generally banded, flaggy and are profusely intruded by quartz veins at places. The rock consists essentially of quartz and orthoclase felspar, with varying amounts of biotite, calcite, diopside, wollastonite, plagioclase felspar, hornblende and sphene. The banding is essentially due to alternation of dark silicate minerals, with lighter coloured quartz, felspar and diopsidic layers. The transition from limestone to siliceous limestone and then to calc-gneiss is very gradational.

ULTRAMAFIC INTRUSIVES

Most of the dykes in the district are of Ultramafic rocks and are confined to the Aravalli series. Broadly speaknig, the Ultramafic exposures can be brought under two groups.

(i) Western exposures confined to Idar area, where they are almost invariably occurring in fold cores. This group can further be divided into four areas (a) between Devnimori and Kundol, (b) between Kokapur and Vartha, (c) at Thuravas, near Mankdi, and (d) between Chavania and Bhanmer.

(ii) Northern exposures, occurring in the neighbourhood of Kherwada forming strike ridges on the crests of the hills, or as bands in Aravalli phyllites.

IDAR GRANITE

The name 'Idar granite' is given to the granite exposed around Idar. The most prominent feature is the Idar hill, while the granites form small groups of rugged pinnacled hills rising abruptly from the plains. They also occur as scattered bosses and tors of smaller size and spread in the south upto Himatnagar. A peculiar mode of weathering giving rise to rounded undercut recesses is common forming small caves and galleries.

The granites vary in texture from fine-grained to coarse porphyritic. They are of different shades of grey to pink. All the types of granites grade into one another and appear to belong to one order and time of intrusion.

The coarse granites consist of microcline, plagioclase, quartz, biotite and hornblende as essential minerals. Accessories are zircon, tourmaline and apatite, often found as inclusions in the essential minerals. Felspars (microcline and plagioclase) predominate and mostly occur as coarse grains ranging upto one centimetre or more across. Felspars form aggregates surrounded by quartz. Quartz occurs in the form of fine-grains. Biotite and hornblende are also found as aggregates and occur scattered marginally to the felspar aggregate. Microcline generally shows perthitic texture. Myrne-

kitic intergrowth of idiomorphic quartz and small idiomorphic plagioclase bordered with quartz are found within many microcline laths.

The porphyritic granites are generally pink in colour. The phenocrysts are generally of microcline, which by their colour lends the predominent tint to the rock as a whole. The other essential minerals are rounded quartz grains, aggregates of hornblende and biotite. Plagioclase is subordinate. Fine-grained granites show different shades of grey to pink. They contain phenocrysts of microcline, orthoclase, quartz and biotite set in a micro-granitic or a granophyric groundmass.

HIMATNAGAR SERIES

The rocks of the Himatnagar series are mainly exposed around Himatnagar. In north, they are exposed upto Arsodia, while in south they occur as scattered outcrops, especially near Wantra, Viravada, etc., on the hill tops. This group consists mainly of sandstones, shales and conglomerates.

The conglomerate is not always seen at the base of the Himatnagar series. It is, however, well exposed in the river cuttings near Arsodia. The pebbles in the conglomerate are well-rounded and they are mostly of quartz and a few of felspars. The cementing material is siliceous. Near Arsodia, between the basal conglomerate and Himatnagar sandstone, there are several bands of variegated clays.

The most common rock type is sandstone of the Himatnagar series. Its colour varies from white to light pink or light violet, but at places it is brick red chocolate brown and dark brown. Occassionally there are ferruginous concretions in the sandstone. The sandstone is generally fine-grained, but at places it is very coarse. Generally the sandstone is loosely aggregated, but at several places it is also compact. The cementing material is siliceous and ferruginous.

There are several bands of shale in the sandstone. The shale is generally pink in colour, but some of the shale-bands show different shades of white, yellow, purple, pink, red and brown colours. At places, the shales are slightly calcareous. They are generally well-bedded and crumble easily. The shales are very well exposed in the Hathmati river-section near Himatnagar, Dedhrota, Derol, Ilol and Arsodia

The Himatnagar series is assigned to the lower Cretaceous on the basis of fossil evidence found in the sandstone.

DECCAN TRAPS

Deccan Traps do not occur in force in the district. Their main exposures are in the Meshvo and Mazum river sections where they cross the road from Talod railway station to Modasa.

The Deccan Trap is generally dense, compact and finely crystalline and non-vesicular. It weathers into round dark boulders and gravels and finally yields black, highly fertile soil. The rock is homogeneous in composition and compact in texture. Felspars generally occur as small laths along with augite and opaque grains of iron-ores. No inter-trappen beds are noticed and it has not been possible in the area under review to distinguish different flows of the Deccan Trap. Its age is assigned to Cretaceo-Eocene.

MAFIC INTRUSIVES

Several altered mafic concordant intrusives, of 0.5 to 2 m. thickness, are observed in the sections near Sunal, Rentoda and Shamalaji. The rocks contain highly sericitised plagioclase, pyroxene and secondary minerals like biotite, chlorite and megnetite. A few small olivine-dolerite dykes are exposed near Khedbrahma, Kawa and Rera. A few thin mafic dykes are exposed also near Bodi and Bamanwada.

LATERITE

Above the rocks of Himatnagar series, laterite cappings of thickness varying from 2 to 10 metres are observed. They are mainly exposed between Kadoli and Eklara. The laterites have varying proportions of limonitic and aluminous ingredients.

The laterite profiles have originated from a coarse-grained granite, and a fine-grained sandstone containing quartz and mica. By the concentration of oxidised and hydroxidised iron minerals in a particular zone of disintegrated structure, typical laterite profile with concretionary or pisolitic forms are developed. The concretion of iron minerals in this horizon has resulted through importation by solution. The iron is derived from altered iron bearing minerals of granite, namely, hornblende and biotite. The origin of iron can also be traced back to the altered bands of sandstones rich in hematite. Of the hydroxidised aluminous minerals only a small quantity of diaspore is present.

SOIL AND ALLUVIUM

A major part of the district is covered by soil and alluvium. The area between Himatnagar and Berna is covered by sandy clay derived from Himatnagar formations. Alluvium in the Hathmati river section between Himatnagar and Hapa, and river section, in the Sabarmati from Derol to Dedhrota and Kadoli show 30 to 60 metres thick sandy clay with *kankar* and conglomerate beds.

Over the regions of metamorphic rocks, the alluvial mantle varies greatly in thickness. The richness of the soil is also variable. The granite

and gneisses on disintegration yield rather poor sandy soil. The crumbling schists and phyllites yield fertile soil on disintegration. Dark grey cotton soil covering the areas around Modasa and Talod are derived from the underlying Deccan Traps.

Minerals

Asbestos and Steatite

Asbestos and steatite are found in association with ultramafic intrusives into the Aravalli metasediments. The main occurrences are in the Kundol valley (Devnimori, Kundol, Isri), south of Dadhalia, Bhanmer and Thuravas.

In Kundol valley, fractures are the main controls for the formation of steatite and asbestos. Steatite is formed within the ultramafic rock, while asbestos is found in the actinolite-schist near its contact with the ultramafic rock. At Kundol, the major shear fractures are aligned north 25° west to north-west with vertical to steep dips towards east-north-east to north-east. Veins of flaky talc, 5-8 cms. in width, of light green colour are confined to such fracture, while steatite of light grey to pale blue colour is soft, homogeneous in texture and occurs in bulk. Tests have shown that the steatite can be sawn into desired shapes, drilled and threaded. The asbestos is of amphibole variety, showing the slip and the cross fibre, but extremely brittle and of very low fibre strength.

South of Dadhalia, a few small pockets of steatite are seen. At 1·5 kms. south of Bhanmer, an old-working reveals amphibole asbestos of the above type in actinolite-schist.

Along the river bank from Thuravas upto Fatehpur, there are exposures of actinolite-serpentine rock. The rocks are weathered and they exhibit a thin veneer of talcose material along the surface. Lenses of asbestos of the tremolite variety are seen at some places. The fibres are 1 cm. to 5 cm. long and are brittle. Small exposures of steatite are also seen near Ghanta and Mora.

Base-metals

Indications of copper-nickel mineralisation, associated with magnetite, have been noticed in the ultramafic rocks, occurring at two localities about 4 to 5 kms. south of Dadhalia These are currently being investigated into for their potentialities.

Galena has been noticed in two small lenses of quartz occurring along joint planes in phyllite near Brahmpuri, 10 kms. south-west of Shamalaji. It is not of any economic significance.

BAUXITE

The reserves in a bauxite deposit occurring near Harsol have been estimated at 2,00,000 tonnes.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Himatnagar sandstone is known for its use as building stone. In the buildings of Gandhinagar, the new capital of Gujarat, a large quantity of these sandstones mined from Panpur quarries near Himatnagar has been used. Besides Panpur, there are several other sandstone quarries near Himatnagar, Parbada, Ilol, Bema, Kanknol, Bhetali, Malsa and Vadali.

Around Idar, slabs of granite are quarried by spalling, *i.e.*, treating the surface alternately by intense heating and cooling. The rock takes very good polish and is used as an ornamental stone.

Dolerite dykes, occurring near Chitrori, Hemtapur. and several other places between Himatnagar and Idar, are quarried, crushed and used as road metal. Near Talod and Modasa, Deccan Traps are also quarried for the same purpose.

Kankar at the base of alluvium is being quarried in the *nala* cuttings near Jamla, Mematapur, Virpur, etc.

CHINA CLAY

China clay is exposed along the left bank of the Sabarmati river between north of Eklara in the north and Arsodia in the south, a stretch of nearly 6 kms. It is also exposed in Nagchula *nala* near Eklara and Vag Vehla near Arsodia. Well sections near Arsodia, Pethapur and Davad show China clay. These wells are located at about 4 kms. east of the main China clay belt of quarries between Arsodia and Eklara.

The China clay occurrences are confined to the top horizon of the granite immediately underlying the Himatnagar series or the lateritised remnanats of the Himatnagar formation. The depth of kaolinisation varies from place to place. At places there are rapid changes in clay, from white to ferruginous, both vertically and laterally. The intensity of kaolinisation decreases at depth. The thickness is from 1 to 6 metres.

China clay is generally white to light grey in colour, with good plasticity. The quality is comparable to the Gornwall China clay. The recovery from crude China clay is 30 to 40 per cent.

In the leased area of Arsodia, crude China clay reserves are 656,900 tonnes, while in Eklara it is 29,88,400 tonnes. About 2·1 million tonnes of reserves of crude China clay is proved in Davad and Pethapur area.

DOLOMITE

A number of small isolated and scattered lenticular patches of dolomitic limestone are met with in a narrow tract from Kheradi to Bhetali and Bhetali to Raipur, on Bhiloda-Shamalaji road. A reserve of 2·5 million tonnes of dolomite has been estimated. This dolomite consists mainly of CaO, 30.93 per cent and MgO, 20.93 per cent.

FIRE CLAY

A few thin beds of Himatnagar shales are used as fire clay or pipe clay. The fire clay beds are mainly exposed along the left bank of Sabarmati between Arsodia and Derol—a stretch of about 16 kms. It is also exposed in the *nalas* feeding the Sabarmati especially near Kadoli, Dedhrota, etc. Fire clay is also exposed along the Hathmati river banks between Himatnagar and Kundol, a stretch of about 13 kms.

The clay is whitish to lilac and reddish in colour and occurs as intercalations in the Himatnagar sandstone. Only shales with the minimum proportion of grit are mined. The thickness of the clay bed varies from 1 to 3 metres. It is mined near Himatnagar, Katwar, Kundol, Derol, Dedhrota and Kadoli. The reserves have not been estimated but are considered to be very large.

GLASS SAND

Patches of soft, whitish to pinkish sandstone occur in the Hathmati river section near Himatnagar. The sandstone, being loosely packed, soft and powdery, is crushed and sieved and is used as glass sand. The chemical analyses show SiO_2 more than 96 per cent, while Fe_2O_3 is about 0·3 per cent. The reserves are not estimated, but seem to be quite large.

LIMESTONE

The limestone formation belongs to the Ajabgarh Series and forms part of the south western extremity of the Delhi synclinorium. The formation is folded, generally north 10° east to north 30° east, and dipping steeply on either side. The limestones are both overlain and underlain by mica-schists.

Reserves of about 450 million tonnes of limestone have been proved in this belt, of which 385 million tonnes are in Sabarkantha district and

the remaining in the Banaskantha district. The limestone contains over 80 per cent calcium carbonate. The maximum depth taken into account in the estimation of reserves is 50 metres from the surface. The reserves of limestone in this belt (extending over 18 kms. between Mandali and Posina-Dilwara road) have been grouped into three grades. The magnesia content is generally very low, the maximum being 1 per cent.

Grade I	Total carbonates	94·95 per cent,	61·43 million tonnes.
Grade II	" "	91·94 per cent,	279·12 " "
Grade III	" "	below 91 per cent,	87·62 " "

The reserves in different areas of Sabarkantha district are as follows :

Area east of Posina	... ...	116,147,000 tonnes
Gunwa-Dilwara area	... ...	203,993,000 "
South-S. W. of Gunwa	.. ...	65,705,000 "
Total	... ...	**385,845,000** "

There are several other small limestone patches which are not of economic importance.

MANGANESE

Some thin veins, betryoidal nodules and encrustations of manganese are noticed in the Aravalli phyllites intercalated with quartzite occurring between Dhanivada and Bhimapur, 8 kms. east of Meghraj. These occurrences are not of any economic importance

MICA

There are some small occurrences of muscovite mica near Lambhoi and Dobhada in Idar taluka and near Bodi in Modasa taluka. The mica is developed in the pegmatites, intrusive into biotite gneisses and mica-schists.

In Lambhoi area, the mica occurrences are very small and have no economic significance. In Dobhada area, there are a few abandoned mica quarries. Here plates and books of mica upto 10 cms. across are developed in the pegmatites. Though the reserves have not been assessed, it is unlikely that they will be sizeable. In Narayannagar *Kampa* area, South

of Dhobhada, there was some mica mining activity during 1949-50. The reserves in the area have not been estimated.

There are several abandoned pits put down for mica in the Bodi area. Here mica is found in most of the pegmatites. The size of mica-flake is, however, very small, rarely exceeding 10 to 15 sq. cms. The quality is variable from clear ruby to greenish, or at time black spotted. At places, the mica book is puckered.

Flora

FORESTS

Introductory

In 1952, the national forest policy was declared by Government which emphasised the protective as well as productive role of forests. It suggested as a desirable long-term objective that one third of the land area should be under forests. Forests supply timber, fuel, fodder and other forest products. They have a moderating influence against floods and erosion and help maintain soil fertility. Besides they provide an industrial base to certain industries Apart from the need of industries, the development of forestry and forest industries is also essential for raising the income of the tribal people living in the forest areas.

The main processes of forest development are consolidation, protection, establishment of communications, exploitation, re-generation, utilisation, research, education and training. The Five Year Plans have laid considerable emphasis on preservation processes, improvement of communications, rehabilitation of degraded forests, establishment of new plantations, better forest management and utilisation of the forest produce.

The forests are broadly divided into three classes as below :

(1) Reserved forests
(2) Protected forests } are constituted under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

(3) Unclassed forests } are other forests and waste lands belonging to both Government and private individuals.

Reserved and protected forests constitute permanent forest estates maintained for the purpose of producing timber and other produce and for protective purposes. Unclassed forests are largely degraded and unprofitable forests rarely surveyed or subjected to any organised protection or management. In the Sabarkantha district, there are reserved and unclassed forests

only. There are no protected forests. The entire forest area is under the Forest Department.

Before integration, the forests were worked in an unscientific manner resulting in overexploitation, malformation and in some cases depletion. After integration settlement and demarcation of the forest areas have been undertaken by the Forest Settlement Officer. Except the surveys undertaken by him, no other surveys have been undertaken in the district.[1]

In order to get a clear idea of the forest wealth of the district, the forest data are examined, keeping following points in view, *viz*., (1) general history of the forests, (2) the area, composition and working of the forests, and (3) special privileges. The forest privileges and concessions enjoyed by the inhabitants of villages situated near the forest areas have been shown in the Annexure II given at the end of the Chapter.

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE FORESTS[2]

The history of forests in Sabarkantha district could be traced back to past. It has to be remembered that in the past, the Rulers were the sole owners of these forests and that revenue consideration alone was the generally accepted concept of forest management and that the maximum sustained yield over a period of time was never aimed at. In other words, most of these forests were overworked in the past under the simple and crude formula of cutting as and when they liked The various State units were under the general control of the Mahikantha Political Agency. But very few attempts were made either to classify the forest (except areas which were parts of the Baroda State) or prepare schemes or plans for its working. In most of the areas even surveys were not undertaken and hence no maps exist at present. Owing to the lack of control and absence of implementation of proper and sound management policies of the forests, the forests are left in a ruined condition at present.

The information regarding past history of forests available is scanty. Though Forest Department was formed as a separate administrative unit in some of the States, the Dewan was, however, the final authority in all matters of administration, and was next to the Ruler. The public was allowed a free hand in exploiting the forests after payment of necessary duty, fixed by the Dewan from time to time. This practice received further impetus during the World War II The prices of forest produce had soared and the practice of indiscriminate cutting of forests spread unchecked resulting in utter ruin of the forest wealth. After merger of the States, considerable time was spent in recruiting the forest staff and the reorganisation of the forest areas

1. Government of Gujarat, *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, Ahmedabad, (1964), p. 92.

2. JADHAV S. P., *Working Schemes of the Sabarkantha Forests*, (1959).

PAST SYSTEMS OF MANAGEMENT

In general, the system of past management of these various State forests was based more or less on the same lines. However, it is necessary to give a short account of the past system of management of forests of each State.

THE IDAR STATE

Some idea of the forest administration in the Idar State is available from the *Reports on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency* for the years 1885-86 and 1886-87. It is observed that :

"The Idar State alone attempts any forest conservancy. It has one or two teak reserves. The introduction of effective conservancy on a large scale would be most difficult in consequence of the immemorial rights of the Bhils to forest produce. The Bhils would certainly resent and resist any interference."[1]

About the Administrative set-up, the Administration Report for the year 1886-87 makes the following observations: "The Idar State had some 6 forest reserves, in which teak was grown. These forests will in time become valuable. In the attached taluka of Mohanpur, a beginning was made with forest conservancy. None of the other States had any regularly conserved forests, and indeed the immemorial rights of the Bhils to forest produce would materially interfere with anything like scientific conservancy."[2]

The State of Idar was divided into 3 divisions, and placed under a Mamlatdar. The duties of the Darbar Karbhari, a First Class Magistrate, and the Assistant Political Agent were more supervisory than executive. In 1901,[3] the Forest Department in the Idar State was supervised by a graduate of the College of Agriculture of Madras, who was educated at the State's expense. In the year, the area under protection was over 35 miles extending over 12 villages in the Ahmednagar (Himatnagar taluka, 17 in the Bayad taluka and 5 in the Vadali taluka. Between 1901 and 1905, there was no major change in the forest policy of the State. However, in the year 1905-06, a contract for the manufacture of catechu from the Khair trees of Rajgadh forest had been given to a Bohra merchant of Surat. The forest produce of the State did not fetch good price as is evident from the *Administration Report of the State* for the year 1906-1907. It states, "unfortunately the forest produce does not find adequate sale as there is little foreign demand owing to the distance of the forests from the

1. *Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1885-86*, p. 7.
2. *Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency*, 1886-87, p. 9.
3. *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State*, 1900-19 1.

railway. There had been a marked improvement in the demand for forest timber in the preceding year. The improvement, however, had not been lasting, as the total receipts from this source during the year under report were only Rs. 1,674 against Rs. 2,828 in the previous year". It may be pointed out that in 1912-13, although the reserved forests had not been actually surveyed, their area approximately came to 30,000 acres. The local forest produce generally consisted of ordinary teak, sadad, khair, timru, rayan, dhav and bamboos. In this year, the revenue from all the sources under the forests amounted to Rs. 1,107.[1] The forest receipts, however, increased to Rs. 6,854 in the year 1916-17. In 1923-24, the receipts, however, doubled. The total amount was Rs. 14,454.[2] The position of the Forest Department in 1931 was as follows : It was in charge of Assistant Revenue Commissioner. The post of a Forest Ranger was sanctioned but was not filled for want of a competent hand. In this year only 10 miles of forest line and 8 miles of coupe line were demarcated. In the same year several new changes were attempted by the State. Attempts were made for clearing of the useless trees by leasing coupes. These attempts were, however, not successful for want of good bidders. Plantation work was also taken in hand at Raigadh. Some mahagony and kaju seedlings were taken from the State nursery and planted in the Raigadh forest. Babul seeds were also scattered in lines. Although some of the trees perished, in the course of the year the general result was satisfactory in as much as 17 sandal, 53 mahagony, 27 kaju and 200 babul trees survived.[3]

In 1935, the forests were put in charge of the Survey Superintendent. It was only in 1937 that the Forest Department was constituted into a separate Department under a regular Forest Officer.

In 1937, the forests were classed as reserved, protected and village in the forest records. These terms did not convey the usual meaning of these classes as described in the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The reserved forests were set aside for the purpose of improvement, and the protected forests were subjected to exploitation. In the same year (1937), coupe system under 30 years rotation was initiated for the exploitation of these forests. However, because of bad quality of forest growth and sufficient forest works being available to labour and contractors in the adjoining Jagir areas, a majority of the coupes remained unsold. This system was afterwards, given up Coppice with standard system with 18 years' rotation is said to have been initiated lateron. However, major exploitation of the forests continued to be by the permit system and the ryots could remove

1. *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State for the year 1912-13*, p. 18.

2. *Ibid.*, *1924-25*, p. 17.

3. *Ibid.*, *1931-32*, pp. 47-48.

forests material from anywhere in the forests in any way, as and when they liked on payment at the scheduled rate. A system of royalty rate auction existed for sometime for the exploitation of firewood and charcoal by contractors.

In 1943-44, the forest areas of the State covered 300 sq. miles.[1] The areas, however, had never been correctly arrived at, as forest settlement and demarcation were never attempted. In some villages even revenue survey had not been introduced. No forest surveys were attempted and no forest maps were prepared. No plantations were also attempted. Cuttings in Narayanpur and Raigadh forests were prohibited and the forests were kept as reserved.

VIJAYNAGAR STATE

The work of Forest Department in Vijaynagar was co-ordinated with that of the Customs Department. As the entire area of the State was under forests, it was under the control of the State rulers. The entire area of the Vijaynagar State was hilly and under tree growth with a small number of villages interspersed with cultivation. The present state of forests indicates that at one time there must have been very good forests in the State. Even hill-tops are found clothed by the forest cover. During the State regime, wholesale cutting of the forests was seldom resorted to. The ryots were allowed to exploit teak and khair under the selection method after payment of "Custom" duty. This practice resulted in exploitation of the best and marketable trees from the forests. The accessible areas were only worked for the purpose of charcoal.

The State regime had adopted certain modes of sales of forest produce. The forest limits to be exploited were defined by physical limits, and neither survey nor demarcation was done in most of the areas. In the case of disposal of khair, the time-limit and the number of axes to be used for extraction were stipulated. The teak bellies were being extracted departmentally and either exported or sold at the depots at retail rates. Mahuda was sold standing at Rs. 4 per tree for the purpose of house construction. Charcoal and firewood were sold to firewood contractors by the system of royalty popularly known as Customs duty rate per maund of charcoal or firewood. Sawar (*Salmalia malabarica*) and Saledi (*Boswellia serrata*) were also extracted from the forests for supply to match factories at Cambay and Porbandar at the rate of Rs. 30 per ton.

The State authorities seemed to have attempted with some success the raising of teak from seeds. However, the attempts were too patchy and haphazard, to be of any consequence.

1 *The Annual Administration Report of the Idar State for the year 1943-44.*

From the State records, it is gathered that Sawar (*Salmalia malabarica*) seeds appear to have been attempted by random dibbles in the forests and at kiln sites and had meet with the same fate as that of teak. Artificial regeneration of fuel species is also said to have been attempted, on charcoal kiln sites. Some years before merger, the Baval was raised along the moist banks of nalas. However, the attempts were never made very seriously and systematically.

EFFECTS OF PAST SYSTEMS OF MANAGEMENT

As stated previously, the public had enjoyed very liberal privileges of cutting the trees as they liked, thereby causing lot of damage to the forests. All best trees were removed repeatedly by them. Moreover, regular heavy grazing and annual fires have left no scope for the natural regeneration to come up, but only accelerated the pace of erosion during the rains. This was the state of affairs in Idar and other petty States. The Ruler of Vijaynagar State did not allow the situation to aggravate, as he allowed the cutting of tree on the basis of a selection method. This system though impoverished the quality of the growing stock, yet preserved the soil cover and helped the natural regeneration of the species. In other words, it replenished most of the stock that was lost. Rigorous forest protection during the State regime has manifested itself by the existence of well-wooded hills as well as plains, *e. g.*. at Vireshwar, Attarsumba, etc., where even though teak is absent, there is predominance of many of the *injailies* which are usually susceptible to damages by fire.

Most of the forests of Vadali, Malpur, Raigadh and Bhiloda Ranges are in a deplorable state of affairs. The disastrous effects of ill-conceived forest policy are felt. The harmful effects of not demarcating the forests or undertaking the survey of the revenue lands have resulted in honey-combing of forest lands with cultivation and encroachment. Thus, strict legislation towards forest conservancy and careful planning for the working of the areas was of the utmost necessity to bring the same into a well managed stand yielding a sustained revenue in perpetuity and thus contribute towards the welfare and prosperity of the population of the tract.

SPECIAL WORKS OF IMPROVEMENT

In Gujarat, none of the States (except part of Baroda State) made attempts in the past to adopt silvicultural methods in the forest management. After merger of these States with Bombay State, silvicultural operations such as improvement, fellings, thinnings, cleanings, etc., were carried out in the forest areas to effect improvement in the growing stock. Plantations are also attempted to restock the areas but with little success. The working plans aimed at the systematic working of these forests on

sound silvicultural principles to restock the areas and arrest further deterioration.

THE AREA, COMPOSITION AND WORKING OF THE FORESTS

The total forest area in the district in 1969-70 was 641·55 sq. kms. of which 531·19 sq. kms. was reserved forests and 110·36 sq. kms. was unclassed forests. In major part soil has become poor and shallow at many places due to removal of natural crop which has contributed towards further deterioration. The distribution of the forests is limited by the influence of biotic factors of man's interference and topographical factors. The major portions are confined to the hills and to flat areas where rigorous legislation on forest conservancy was in vogue. The areas which were formerly under forests were sold by the rulers to the Patidars of Gujarat and the Kanbis of Kutch. They cut the forests and made lands fit for cultivation after putting in immense labour and spending large amounts. These cultivable areas have been formed into farms called Kampas.[1]

The forests of Sabarkantha represent mixed dry deciduous type of forests, varying considerably in composition, condition and density, partly on account of geognostic variation but chiefly due to the injuries caused by man. The forests are generally confined to the hills where a variety of species occur changing with the elevation. The geological formations do not vary much on hills which account for the dominance of one single species, *i. e.*, teak. The teak forms upto 60 per cent of the crop in Vijaynagar Range and upto 80 per cent of the crop in other teak forests. The paucity of rainfall and long spells of dry months coupled with the unfavourable local factors have limited the dimension of the plants. The teak is favourably supported by quartzitic and granitic strata. Mahuda is generally common on plains. Preponderence of undergrowth of Jayaparvati (*Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*) occurs generally growing on the lower summits of hills of Vijaynagar and Vadali Ranges. In Dholwani (excluding some areas) parts of Vadali and Bhiloda Ranges, teak is particularly absent. Attempts made in the past to introduce teak in the area were met with little or no success.

The teak forests of Vijaynagar Range are better in quality than those in any other Ranges and are capable of producing sound timber even upto about 36" girth. Rest of the teak forests are of inferior quality. The forests in Malpur and Maghodi areas consist of young coppice crop below 12 years in age.

Except Vijaynagar Range where the crop is somewhat sound and straight as the forests were worked less on permits and in some detached

1. Government of Gujarat, *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, Ahmedabad, (1964), p. 105.

blocks in Raigadh and Narayanpur villages, most of the trees are over-matured, hollow, malformed and not quite fit even as firewood. On the chain of hills, near Gholvada of Vadali Range, there is nearly pure young crop of Kala-Dhav (*Anogeissus pendula*) mixed with Khakharo (*Butea monosperma*), and Limdo (*Azadirachta indica*). This indicates the lowest stage of retrogression sustained by the vegetation caused by faulty management in the past.

Superior Teak Forests—This occurs in Vijaynagar and eastern parts of Dholwani Range. At some places Khakhara is also found largely associated with teak. The natural regeneration of teak is seen at some places.

Inferior Teak Forests- This occurs in Bhiloda, Ishri and Raigadh Ranges. Natural regeneration of teak is noticeable.

Young Teak Forests—This occurs in Malpur and Maghodi areas. Natural regeneration of teak by seed is absent.

In the teak forests described above the general flora consists of the following species :

Top Canopy—Teak, Sag (*Tectona grandis*), Sadada (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Shisham (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Tanach (*Ougeinla dalbergioides*), Bia, Bibla (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Kalam (*Mitragyna parviflora*), Sawar (*Salmalia malabarica*), Timru (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Humb (*Miliusa tomentosa*), Savan, Shivan (*Gmelina arborea*), Salai (*Boswellia serrata*), Limdo (*Azadirachta indica*), Kalo or Pilo Shirish (*Albizzia lebbek*), Kada, Karai, Kadhai (*Sterculia urens*), Moyano (*Lannea coromondelica*), Mahuda (*Madhuka latifolia*), Dhav Dhavdo (*Anogeissus latifolia*).

Under Storey—Kakad (*Garuga pinnata*), Baval (*Acacia arabica*), Karanjl (*Pongamia pinnata*), Dhav, Dhavdo (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Amla (*Emblica officinalis*), Bili (*Aegle marmelos*), Rohan (*Soymida febrifuga*), Saragwa (*Moringa pterigosperma*), Khakharo (*Butea monosperma*), Vino (*Capparis grandis*), Kagar, Khaiger (*Acacia ferruginea*), Aniyar (*Acacia leucophlea*), Alledi, Alladi (*Morinda tinctoria*), Dudhi (*Wrightia tinctoria*), Gal or Mindhal (*Randia dumatorum*), Hingol (*Balanites ageyptica*), Ghat-bor (*Zizyphus xylopyra*), Vico (*Gymnosporia montana*) and Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*).

Undergrowth—The undergrowth is generally absent on the plains. But on hills it generally comprises the following species, *viz.*, Jayaparvati (*Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*), Mardasing (*Helcteres isora*), Awal (*Cassia auriculata*), Ker (*Capparis aphylla*) and coarse thatch grasses.

Climbers—Climbers are rare. The following are met with :

Vitis repanda, Coceulus vilosus and *Caesalpinia sepiaria.*

Non-teak Forests—These occur in Dholwani and Vadali Ranges except Bhakhra round. The absence of teak is greatly felt due to presence of its usual associates. The composition of flora on plains differs from that on the hills.

The flora on the plains consists of the following species (Attarsumba and Vireshwar forests of Dholwani Range and Damavas of Vadali Range).

The crop is more or less even aged and young. The general height is about 20′.

TOP CANOPY

Katas (*Strychnos potatorum*), timru (*Diospyros montana*), khakhar, amla, akado, alledi, bel, bor, ghat-bor, datado, (*Bridelia retusa*), dhaman (*Grewia tiliaefolia*), sadado (*Terminalia tomentosa*), garmalo (*Cassia fistula*), gojal (*Lannae grandis*), kadam, kalamb (*Mitragyna parviflora*), karapto, kakad (*Garuga pinnata*), rohan (*Soymida fabrifuga*), khair (*Acacia catechu*).

Undergrowth Natural seedlings of above species and also dudhi, kanthar, akalo and sathi.

The non-teak forests on the hills constitute the following :

TOP CANOPY

Dhav, bel, khakhro, amla, sadado, garmalo, gojal, kalam, khair, sissum, passi, kamdol, kadhai, bio etc.

Undergrowth—Dudhi, karvi, mardasing, etc.

Scrub Forests This class occurs in the ruined forest areas of Modasa reserves, Gholvada, Phagol and Gulabpura forests of Vadali Range. The area of Modasa reserves is more or less a plain one but badly cut up by nallas. The present stocking consists of scrubs of throny and xerophytic species. Trees do not exist.

The species occurring in the area are vico (*Gymnosporia montana*), baval, bor, ghat-bor, kanthar, etc.

The scrub areas of Vadali consist of pure thick stand of Kala dhav (*Anogeissus pendula*) on all over the chain of hills. The general height

is about 7'. Other species available in the tract are : Limdo (*Azadirachta indica*), khakhar, baval, bor, ghat-bor, etc., in little quantities.

Forests on River-banks—These occur mainly along *nullas* and *kotars* of Attarsumba Sub-Range of ex-Baroda State. The forests are well preserved since the State regime. The growing stock consists of mature, middle-aged and sound trees. The teak is totally absent. The flora of the tract consists of baval, shivan, mahuda, khair sadad, timru, asuitra, amla, conyar, gojal, dhav, bor, baheda, kalamb, etc.[1]

MEDICINAL HERBS

In view of the abundance of the medicinal herbs in the State, the Gujarat Government appointed a Committee for Gardens of Medicinal Plants in 1964 to make a comprehensive study of the medicinal plants available in the forests in the State and to suggest their uses in preparation of the Ayurvedic medicines. The Committee, *inter alia* toured the forest areas of the Sabarkantha district and studied medicinal herbs growing therein. The findings of the Committee are very revealing and are given in Annexure III to this Chapter.

FRUIT TREES

Orchards and plantations have not developed on a large scale in the Sabarkantha district on account of various factors such as soils, scarcity of rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities. Despite these handicaps, farmers have been trying to grow and cultivate fruits like grapes, mangoes, lemon (citrus), guava, *papaya* and ber in about 5,704 acres only.

Grapes—Grape cultivation has been started recently and it is mainly grown in Himatnagar, Idar, Khedbrahma and Vijaynagar talukas of the district.

Mangoes—In this district, there is no regular plantation of mango trees. The trees are found in all talukas of this district. In Prantij taluka, however, mango trees are reared on a large scale. Mostly, *deshi* varieties are grown. New varieties on regular plantation basis have been introduced of late in the district.

Lemon—Lemon trees are found in Prantij, Bayad, Idar and Modasa talukas.

Guava—Bayad, Modasa and Prantij talukas grow guava in small area.

1. JADHAV S. P., (D. F. O.), *Working Scheme of the Sabarkantha Forests*, (1959).

Papaya—The cultivators in Himatnagar, Idar and Prantij talukas grow *deshi* and *madhubindu* varieties of *papaya* in small area.

Ber—There are good plantations of ber in the talukas of Idar, Modasa and Prantij of the district.

Fauna

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Among the domestic animals, there are horses, cows, bullocks, buffaloes, camels, sheep and goats. Poultry farming is resorted to by many. Some idea of the domestic animals of the district is available from the old Gazetteer, as under :

" Of domestic animals, the Mahi Kantha bullocks, worth from £ 1 12 s. to £20 (Rs. 16 to Rs. 200) a pair, are smaller and weaker than those of Kankrej in Palanpur. They are reared by all classes of husbandmen, and are set to work when four years old In ploughing and working wells one pair is used, and in drawing carts with a load of from 1200 to 1600 pounds (30-40 *mans*), from two to four pairs. Bhats and Vanjaras have pack bullocks, who carry grain and salt in a long bag with a mouth in the middle, thrown across a saddle, *palan* of rope and cotton rags. Pack bullocks, except that they are sometimes given a little salt, are left to pick up what they can. Other bullocks are stall-fed on grass and oilcake, *khol*, with, in a few cases, grain, grass, and spices, *masala* ".[1]

HORSES

As it is not economical to keep horses, not many horses are found in the district. Horses are, however, maintained by the Police Department. These are mainly used for patrolling and are kept at every taluka head-quarters. The State-owned horses are not reared in the district but are purchased from different parts of India. They are well-built and are well maintained. Barring one or two cultivators in a group of 8-10 villages, horses are seldom kept by farmers Horse carriages are maintained mainly in the towns of Prantij, Modasa and Idar The horses used for horse-drawn vehicles are of low quality, country-breed and stunted in growth. They are mostly weak. On account of poverty of the owners, these horses are half starved. The main food of the horse is mixture of the pulses, *chana*, etc. The average price of a horse in the district varies from Rs. 150 to Rs 250.

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1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V., *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), pp. 360-361.

CAMELS

In some of the forest areas and sandy tracts, where transport and communication facilities are not available camels are used. Camels are chiefly reared by Rabaris and Bharwads. These camels are of best stock. The Rabaris generally derive their income from the camels. They also use camel's milk and sell the young ones. The Rabaris generally do not feed camels at home but allow them to graze outside. The price of a camel varies at present from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 1,800.

COWS, BULLOCKS AND BUFFALOES

Cows, bullocks and buffaloes are found in a large number in the district. Mainly three breeds of bullocks are found, *viz.*, Kankrej, Gir and country. About 70 per cent of the population of bullocks is of Kankrej breed, 20 per cent country breed and 10 per cent Gir breed.

Cows are kept by Rabaris in large numbers. They keep one or two district. Mainly three breeds of bullocks are found, *viz.*, Kankrej, Gir and thereafter they are sold to farmers. The Rabaris mainly depend for their livelihood on the cow's milk and its product. A cow costs from Rs. 400 to Rs. 500, while a Kankrej bullock costs from Rs 1,200 to Rs. 1,500. The Adivasi population living in talukas of Bhiloda, Meghraj, and Khedbrahma and the Vijayanagar mahal keep bullocks of country-breed. These bullocks are stunted in growth and cost from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300.

It may be observed that the farmers of the district prefer generally buffaloes. Each family of farmer keeps 2 to 4 milch buffaloes.

The buffaloes are found of the following breeds, *viz.*, Mehsana, Nagori and Surti The buffaloes are well managed and well-fed. On an average, each buffalo gives 6 to 7 litres of milk each time. The price of the buffalo varies from Rs. 1,100 to Rs. 1,300. The main food given to buffaloes is oil-cake and green fodder, *i. e., bajri, juwar* and maize stalks.

GOATS AND SHEEP

The goats are also found in large number is the Sabarkantha district. Two main breeds are noticed, *viz.*, Patori and Bharwadi. The Patori breed is kept by the Muslims. On an average, a she goat gives 1 to 1·5 litres of milk each time. Its price varies from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125. The Bharwadi goats are kept by the Bharwads, who eke out their living by selling the milk and hair of goats.

In addition to goats, sheep of Marwari breed are reared by the Bharwads in the district. For livelihood, the Bharwads mainly depend

(Bk) H-57—5 (Lino)

upon sheep. The wool of Marwari sheep is of a course variety. There are two varieties of wool, *viz.*, Lavi and Chaitu. Lavi wool fetches more price. The price of sheep varies from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125.

WILD ANIMALS

About the wild animals, the former *Gazetteer of Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha* refers to following :

"Of wild animals the chief are the Tiger, *vagh*, Felis tigris ; the Bear, *rinchh*, Ursus labiatus ; the Panther, *dipdo*, Felis leopardus ; the Wolf, *varu*, Canis pallipes ; the Wild Boar, *dukkar*, Sus idicus ; the Hyaena, *taras*, Hyaena striata ; the Jackal, *sial*, Canis aureus ; and the Fox, *lokdi*, Vulpes bengalensis. The following are also found : The Stag, *sambhar*, Rusa aristotelis ; the Spotted Deer, *chital*, Axis maculatus ; the Antelope, *kaliar*, Antelope bezoartica ; the Indian Gazelle, *chinkara*, Gazella bennettii ; the Porcupine, *sahudi*, Hystrix cristata ; the Leopard, *chitta*, Felis Jubatus ; the Four-Horned Antelope, *bhekar*, Tetraceros quadricornis ; the Otter, *panini biladi*, Lutra vulgaris ; the Blue Bull, *nilgai*, Portax pictus ; the Alligator, *magar* ; the Monkey, *vandro* ; the Wild Cat, *jungli bilado*, Felis chaus ; and the Hare, *sasalo*, Lepus ruficaudatus.[1]

Along with the depletion of forests, wild life is also becoming scarce and some fauna is seen only around the thickly wooded areas of Vijaynagar, Shamlaji, etc., in the Sabarkantha district. The principal reason for the depletion of wild life in the district is the indiscriminate shooting of wild animals by the rulers of the former princely States and other *shikaris* (husters). However, some panthers, rabbits, bears, etc., have withstood the ravages of poachers and have been saved from extinction due to strict protection afforded of late to them.

Panther—Panthera pardus (*Linnaeus*) (*Dipdo*)—The panthers are found in the district. They are able to live and thrive almost anywhere. They are not restricted to forests or heavy cover like the tigers, and thrive as well in open country as among rocks and scrubs. Their natural prey include deer, monkeys, porcupines, cattle, birds, reptiles and crabs. The panthers living near human habitation prey mainly upon domestic animals or even poultry and are particularly fond of lifting dogs. They invariably seize their victims by the throat and kill them by strangulation.

Blue Bull—Boselaphus tragocamelus (*Pallas*) (*Nilgai*)—The *nilgais* avoid dense forests. Their usual haunts are hills sparsely dotted with trees or level or undulating plains covered with grass. They enter cultivation and are a menace to crops. Their chief means of escape is speedy movements. Sometimes four to ten blue bulls are seen together. Sometimes

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), p. 362.

as many as twenty or more are also seen. They have secured a spontaneous popular protection because they are looked upon as near relatives of cows and, therefore, sacred.

The Wild Boar--Sus scrofa (Linnaeus) (Dukkar)—The wild boars live in grass or scanty bush jungle and sometimes in forest. They are seen quite commonly in high crops. They are omnivorous living on crops, roots, tubers, insects, snakes, offal and carrion. No animal is more destructive to crops than the wild boar. They are intelligent and their sense of smell is acute.

Sloth Bear (Melursus ursinus) (Rinchh)--This species is found rarely. The bears' main food consists of fruits and insects. They also knock down the honey-combs.

Sambhar (Cervus unicolor) (Sambhar)--Though the number has been reduced to considerable extent, the *sambhars* are found all over the forests. Their food consists of grass, leaves and various kinds of wild fruits. They cause damage to the forests by browsing the leaves and the leafy tender shoots.

Hyaena (Hyaena hyaena) (Taras)--This species is found in almost all parts of the district. Hyaenas have got a dog-like build, massive head and weak hindquarter. Their colour varies from cream buff to grey. They are by nature a scavanger animal. Occasionally, sheep and goats and quite often stray dogs are carried away by them.

Monkey (Vandro)—Monkeys are found in large numbers. They generally feed on various kinds of fruits and cause damage to the plants by breaking the leading shoots.

The Indian Porcupine—Hystrix indica (Kerr) (Shahudi)—The porcupines are found in forests, rocky hillsides and in grassy areas. They have liking for fruits and are frequently killed. while pilfering in orchards. Their necks and shoulders are crowned with a crest of bristles 6 to 12 inches (15 to 20 cms.) long. The quills on the back are profuse. Each quill is ornamented with deep brown or black and white rings.

The porcupines shelter by day in caves, amongst rocks or in a burrow. They come out after dark. They have a keen sense of smell and display high intelligence in evading traps. All kinds of vegetables, grain, fruits and roots are their main food. They can be very destructive in gardens and cultivation. When irritated or alarmed porcupines erect their spines, grunt and puff, and rattle their hollow tail quills. They launch backwards with incredible speed and clashing their hindquarters against an enemy, drive their erect quills deep into with painful or even fatal results.

Jackal—Canis aureus (*Linnaeus*) (*Shial*)—The jackal's long-drawn eerie howling at dusk or just before dawn is perhaps more familiar to most people than the animal itself. Their nearest wild relatives are the wolves, but the jackals are smaller in build and meaner in aspect.

The jackal can live almost in any environment in forest country, or in dry open plains or desert. They live near towns and villages and cultivation sheltering in holes in the ground, usually they come out at dusk and retire at dawn. They do good work in the clearance of carcasses and offal, the only sanitary service known to many of our towns and villages. Jackals kill poultry, lambs, kids and goats and sheep. In season, jackals raid melon patches and sugar-cane fields. Where *ber* trees grow, they collect to feed on fallen fruits.

The Chital or Spotted Dear--Axis axis (*Erxle ben*) (*Haran*)—The *chitals* are perhaps the most beautiful of all deer. Their coats are bright rufous-fawn profusely spotted with white at all ages and in all seasons. They are found in the forests where there is jungle combined with good grazing and a plentiful supply of good water. They are seen in herds of 10 to 30. They do not shun the proximity of villages but enter cultivation. They are less nocturnal than *sambhar* and feed till late in the morning

Indian Hare-Lepus nigricollis (*F. Cuvier*) (*Saslu*)—Where the country is suitable, hares are numerous Large tracts of bush and jungle alternating with cultivated plains afford them ideal conditions. They are less numberous in forests. Many hares live in the neighbourhood of villages and cultivation. They are nocturnal in habit. They have many enemies. Foxes, mongooses, wild cats and even village dogs prey upon them.

BIRDS

The bird life of the district is colourful and rich on account of extensive forest areas. A comprehensive list of 87 birds so far noticed in the district is given at the end of this Chapter in Annexure IV. Some of the important birds of the district are described below.

The Spoonbill-Platalea leucorodia (*Temm. and Schleg*)—The spoonbill is a long-necked, long-legged snow-white marshy bird with a large black and yellow spoon-shaped bill. Its food consists of tadpoles, frogs, molluscs, insects and also vegetable matter.

The Pheasant-tailed Jacana-Hydrophasianthus chirurgus (*Scopoli*)—The pheasant-tailed jacana is a striking white and chocolate-brown rail-like water bird with enormous feet and a distinctive, long, pointed sickle-shaped

tail. The spider-like toes are adapted for a life on the floating water vegetations like lotus, singara, etc. It helps distribute the weight of the bird over a large area, so that it can run over the most lightly floating leaf without producing a ripple.

The Southern Green Pigeon-Crocopus phoenicopterus chlorigaster Blyth)—The southern green pigeon is a stout, yellowish, olive-green and ashy-grey bird with a lilac patch on the shoulder and a conspicuous yellow bar on the blackish wings. Generally, it keeps in flocks of 15 to 50 birds. Its plumage matches so perfectly with the leaves of the tree on which it sits, that in spite of its large size, the bird becomes completely obliterated.

The Red Spurfowl-Galloperdix spadicea spadicea (*Gmelin*)—The bird's size is smaller than the village hen. The hen differs from the cock in being brown or chestnut above with fine black bars and freckles. The cock has 2 to 4 pointed spurs on each leg. The hen usually has one spur on one leg and two on other leg. Generally it does not fly unless hard-pressed. For a speedy escape, it depends upon its legs.

The Crested Serpent Eagle-Spilernis chilla minor (*Hume*)—The bird's size is larger than that of a kite It is handsome with a prominent black and white crest on back of a head, seen very fully when erected. The underparts are brown. When the bird flies, a white bar across the tail and two similar bars on each of the broad and round wings are seen. Its food consists mainly of frogs, lizards, rats and snakes

The Indian Great Horned Owl-Bubo bubo bengalensis (*Franklin*)—The owl's size is about that of pariah kite. It is a large brown and fulvous owl streaked and mottled with tawny-buff and black with two conspicuous black aigrettes or horns or ear-tufts above the head. It is met with singly or in pairs in rocky ravines and steep-sided water courses. Though chiefly nocturnal, this owl may be seen frequently on the move till after the sun is well up. Both the sexes are similar. Its food consists of small mammals, birds, lizards, reptiles large insects and crabs. It keeps a constant check upon the destructive rodents and is, therefore, of great economic value. It is, however, considered a bird of ill-omen by the people.

The Brown-headed Storkbilled Kingfisher-Pelargopsis capensis gurial (*Pearson*)- The size of the kingfisher is slightly smaller than that of a pigeon. This kingfisher, however, is easily distinguished from other brightly coloured kingfishers by its large size and enormous sharp-pointed, compressed and blood-red bill. The bird inhabits well-watered places. It sits for hours on a branch of a tree near a pool and catches any fish that shows up near the surface Sometimes it disappears under water for an instant and comes out with a fish in its mouth. When disturbed, the bird flies off the tree with loud screams which continue for a long time.

The Tailor Bird-Orthotomus sutorius guzurata (*Latham*)—The bird is smaller than the sparrow. It is a small restless bird (olive-green) with whitish underparts, a rust coloured crown, and elongated middle feather of the tail, which is habitually cocked. The nest of the bird is remarkable. It is a rough cup of soft fibres, cotton wool placed in funnel formed by folding over and stitching a broad leaf along its edges. The stitching material is cotton or vegetable threads clearly knotted at the ends to prevent sewing getting undone.

The Grey Jungle Fowl-Gallus sonnerati (*Temm.*)—The grey jungle fowl's size is that of a village hen. The male is generally grey with metallic black sickle-shaped tail. The hen is white breasted with blackish streaks. Its diet comprises grain, shoots and berries. It also eats termites and other insects. In this way, it is useful. But the bird is very timid in presence of man. The crowing of the bird is usually preceded by a loud flapping of wings and is answered one by one by all other cocks in the neighbourhood.

The Large Indian Parakeet-Psittacula eupatria nipalensis (*Hodgson*)—The size of the parakeet is about that of the pigeon, but more slender with a long pointed tail. It is a large grass-green parakeet with a typical short, massive with a deeply hooked-red bill and maroon patch on each shoulder. It is a beautiful bird and is sweet to hear. It is a pet bird. Its food consists of fruits, grains, etc. Alongwith other family members, it causes considerable damage to orchards and crops by its destructive method and is not useful in cross fertilization.

The Grey Hornbill-Tockus birostris (*Scopoli*)—The size of the grey hornbill is that of a pariah kite. It is clumsy, slaty-grey bird with an enormous black and white curved bill surmounted by a peculiar protuberence. Its tail is long and graduated. Its diet consists mainly of figs of Banyan, Pipal and various other species of Ficus. The flight of the hornbill is typical. It is laboured, undulating and noisy consisting of a few rapid wing strokes followed by an interval of gliding.

The Golden-backed Woodpecker—Dinopium benghalense benghalense (Linnaeus)—The size of this woodpecker is slightly larger than the myna. The male differs from the female in having the entire crown and crest of crimson colour. It has typical long, stout, and pointed bill and stiff wedge-shaped tail. Its food consists of mango, white ants, corals, etc. Its nest is very peculiar. The nest is a hollow in the wood with a comparatively much smaller entrance to prevent the entry of its enemies like kite, eagle, etc. It is not shy and freely enters in gardens and compounds in proximity to human habitations.

The Central Indian Iora-Aegithina tiphia humei (Stuart Baker)—The size of this iora is about that of a sparrow. The male is jet-black

and canary. In non-breeding season, the male is just like female. It is generally seen in pair hunting for its prey caterpillar, insects, etc. Its nest is a peculiar structure. It is a compact little cup of soft grass and root-fibres neatly rounded off at the bottom.

The Peafowl-Pavo cristatus (Linnaeus) (Peacock)—The sweeping and graceful colours of its neck, body and plumage, artistic features, its melodious voice and its unique dance has endeared peafowl to the people. It is, therefore, declared as our "National Bird". The size of the bird is that of a vulture excluding the train of the male which is about 1 to 1·25 metre long. The gorgeous oscillating train of the adult male is not his tail but abnormally lengthened upper tail coverts. The female is smaller and is without train. She is crested. The bird is associated with Saraswati, the Goddess of learning, whose carrier it is. The peafowl is protected by religious sentiment and law. Its food consists of grain and vegetable shoots. Its feathers are used for decoration and fans.

The Koel—Eudynamis scolopaceus scolopaceus (Linnaeus) (Cuckoo)—The male of the koel bird is glistening black with yellowish-green bill; female is brown, spotted and barred with white colour. It is one of our most familiar birds, its call being better known than its appearance. During winter, the bird is silent but with approach of hot weather and its coincident breeding season, its loud shrill notes are heard. The bird is entirely arboreal and never descends to the ground.

The White-eared Bulbul-Molpastes leucogenys leucotis (Gould)—The white-eared bulbul is an inhabitant of dry, open, bush-and-scrub country and also gardens. Its diet consists of banyan and peepal figs and of fruits and berries of various kinds. It plays an important part in the dispersal of seed and dissemination of plant-life over the countryside. The loud abrupt snaches of rottling sound of the male is quite unmistakable when once heard.

The Jungle Babbler - Turdoides somervillei (Sykes) The jungle babbler is earthy-brown bird with untidy appearance. It is always found in flocks of seven, so popularly known as 'seven sisters'. Its food consists of spiders, cockroaches and other insects and larvae. It is fond of the flower nectar of the coral and silk cotton trees and incidentially does considerable service in cross-pollinating the blossoms

The Common Weaver Bird or Baya-Ploceus phillippinus phillippinus (Linnaeus)— The weaver bird is noted chiefly for its wonderful retort shaped hanging nests. It has a long narrow entrance tube. The nest is woven with strips of grass or paddy leaf. These nests are generally found on tall trees like palm or ber in colonies, occasionally of over 100 nests. The nests are generally built by the male on arrival of breeding season, *i. e.*, from May to September.

The Indian Black Drongo-Dicrurus macrocercus peninsularis (Ticeh)—The Indian black drongo is a glossy black bird with long deeply forked tail. The bird is generally found near countryside. It is seen in attendance on grazing cattle, often riding on the animals' back snapping up the insects disturbed by their feet. This species is highly beneficial to agriculture on account of the large number of injurious insects it destroys.

The Blossom-headed Parakeet-Psittacula cyanocephala bengalensis (Forst) -The blossom-headed parakeet can be distinguished from other species by its smaller size but is equally harmful to the crops and other cultivation. It is a nectar eating bird, but because of the destructive method of the visit it is not useful in cross-fertilization.

SNAKES[1]

Snakes are limbless reptiles with a dry scaly skins, which they cast off periodically. Such cast-offs are called *exuvia* which are used by some people for some medicinal purposes. Snakes do not have ear drum as amphibians, other reptiles, bird and mammals have. Nevertheless, they are sensitive to sound waves passing through the soil. The tongue is bifid and quivers in and out through the loose opening of the lower jaw. Moreover certain depressions between the nostrils and eyes of some snakes are very sensitive to infra-red radiations and they can detect very minute temperature differences. Endowed with such qualities, the snakes can easily sense the presence of other animals. The jaws of the snakes are constructed in such a way that they can open their mouths very wide and can swallow large preys.

In the district, both poisonous as well as non-poisonous snakes are found. A brief account of the snakes is given below.

I NON-POISONOUS SNAKES

FAMILY : *Boidae*

Indian Python-*Python molurus* (*ajgar*)—Python is fairly common in this area. Though mostly confined to the wooded area, it is not very uncommon in the open areas. Of all the snakes, python is the largest. Its length varies from 2,000 mm. to 7 000 mm. The weight of the python varies between 70 lbs. to 250 lbs. It can climb trees and swim efficiently in water. It mainly feeds on small birds, mammals, rodents, and other animals. A large-sized python is known to devour goats and also other such large-sized animals.

[1] R. V. Shah. (Prof.), Head of the Department of Zoology, M. S. University, Baroda.

Python is not a poisonous snake. It kills its prey by strangulating it with the coils of its muscular body. The body of the snake is yellow-brown in colour with oblique dark brown curving marks on it.

The Rat Snake-*Ptyas mucosus*-(*Dhaman*)—It is a non-poisonous agile snake of very common occurrence, usually found in bushes and hedges. It feeds on small birds and their eggs, frogs, lizards, rats, etc. Rodents are its favourite food and in this capacity, it helps farmers. It reaches length of about 2·25 metres in males and 1·80 metres in females when full grown. Its body has pale brown colour with faint dark bands. The tail is slender and pointed.

The Checkered Keel-back-*Natrix piscator* and the Buff striped Keel-back-*Natrix stolata.* These are non-poisonous snakes usually found near water. The bodies of these snakes are greenish black in colour. These snakes feed usually on frogs, fishes, and other small animals usually found near water and in humid surroundings.

John's Sand Boa-*Eryx Johnii* (*Andhli Chakran*)- -The snake is of the kindred group of pythons and is seen more often. It has a light brown colour. The tail of the snake is blunt and looks quite similar to the front end of the body, hence there is a false belief that it has heads at both the ends of the body. It is found in bushy places as well as in dry fields. It survives on frogs, lizards and rodents. It is a non-poisonous snake.

Sand Boa-Eryx conicus—The length of male Sand Boa is 480 mm. and that of female is twice. It is a pinkish grey snake with deep brown irregular patches all over the body. The patches are edged by black borders. Its head is not distinguishable from the neck The eyes are very small with a vertical pupil.

It remains hidden in sandy soils It often prefers to burrow in soft areas lying partly hidden where the body colour is in keeping with the surroundings. It feeds on frogs, mice, lizards, etc It can be distinguished by its blunt tail which looks like the head end, the eyes being small and the fact that it sometimes crawls back, as such it is often mistaken to be a two-headed snake, that is a snake having heads at two ends. This is not true. It is oviparous laying eggs during summer months.

II Poisonous Snakes

The Cobra-*Naja naja* (*Nag*) -The length of cobra is about 1,800 mm. Its head is not very distinct from the neck. The snake has the characteristic hood which can be spread wide due to long erectile rib bones of the neck region. In a watchful and on-guard stance the hood is spread and the front part of the body is held upright in readiness for attack. The *nag* is a common snake with the charmers and is worshipped by many people.

The snake is mainly a resident of open land and fields, but may also be found near human habitations. It feeds on small animals like rats, shrews, frogs, birds, etc. Its poison has strong neurotoxic effect. There is less pain, slight swelling, irritation and death is due to respiratory failure. If sufficient amount of venom is injected by this snake, the only remedy is the antivenin.

The Common Krait-*Bungarus caeruleus* (*Konotaro*)—The common krait is a deadly poisonous snake living usually in open plains and fields. A large hexagonal row of scale in the midline on back is a peculiar feature of this snake. Its poison is also neurotoxic and its bite is almost as deadly as that of a cobra.

Its colour is brownish-blue and the length is about 1,500 mm. The snake is nocturnal in habits. It not only eats mice but also other snakes too.

Russell's Viper-*Vipera russelli* (*Chital*)—The length of the Russell's Viper is 1,600 mm. in female and male is slightly longer. It has a yellow brown colour with dark circular marks all over the body. These marks may also have lighter margins.

The viper has the habit of hissing loudly and continuously, if disturbed. The snake is found in rocky and bushy region where the colouration of the skin is in keeping with the surroundings. The chief food of this snake comprises small mammals like rats, mice, lizards and birds. This snake is very deadly poisonous.

Bamboo Pit Viper-Trimeresurus gramineus—As the district abound in bamboo forests, this snake is commonly noticed. Its length is about 750 mm. This verdant green snake has a triangular head and three yellowish white longitudinal lines on the body, one median and two lateral. Its prehensile tail is yellowish or reddish mottled with dark hues and greyish, with some grey spots ventrally. Its head is with blackish spots on imbricate scales and a speckled line from eye to neck The eyes of this snake are with golden iris and a black vertical pupil.

It prefers the bamboo vegetation or grass on which it is often seen reclining during day time. Its colour harmonises with the surroundings. It is sluggish, but when roused is capable of hissing and snapping at the victim.

The food of this snake consists of small mammals, lizards or birds. It strikes the victim and holds it till it is dead. This is a viviparous poisonous snake, whose venom is probably vasotoxic.

Fish

Bordered by the famous river Sabarmati at the north-west and western side and intersected by the small rivers like the Varasi, the Vatrak, the

Mazum, the Meshvo, the Hathmati, the Harnav and the Kosambi, this district has very high potentialities for the development of fisheries. The reservoirs, recently completed on the rivers Meshvo, Hathmati. Indrasi, etc., and various minor irrigation projects like Patera, Bokh, etc., also promise lucrative fisheries. Besides these, there are several perennial and seasonal village tanks situated in the different talukas of the district. Most of the village tanks are connected with the rivers, their tributaries or irrigation canals during monsoon season so that they get naturally stocked with the seeds of major carps.

The important fishing centres of the district are Prantij in the Bokh reservoir and Himatnagar in the Hathmati river. Professional fishermen, who make a living entirely by fishing are found in these two places only. But in most of the villages of the district, agriculturists belonging to communities like Waghri and Thakarda do fishing as a part-time job. The Adivasis of the Khedbrahma, Bhiloda, Vijaynagar, Malpur and Meghraj talukas/mahals also do fishing from the rivers and tanks with their primitive equipments. The number of active fishermen in the district is only about 250. But if the agriculturists and Adivasis who also take to fishing partially are taken into account their figure may well exceed over 10,000 persons.

Following varieties of fish are available in the district :

Sl. No.	Scientific Name	English Name	Local Name
1	*Catla Catla*	Catla	*Catla, Bawas*
2	*Labeo Rohito*	Rohu	*Rohu*
3	*Cirrhina Mrigal*	Mrigal	*Nagari*
4	*Labeo Fimbriatus*	Fringe-lipped carp	*Bilgi, Begado*
5	*Wallago Attu*	Fresh water shark	*Magara*
6	*Mystus Singhala*	Singala	*Katia*
7	*Labeo Buta*	Buta	*Buta*
8	*Labeo Calbasu*	Kalbasu	*Kalavat, Kanchi, Begado*

Source :
The Commissioner of Fisheries, Gujarat State Ahmedabad.

CLIMATE[1]

The climate of this district is characterised by general dryness except in the south-west monsoon season and a hot summer. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from December to February is followed by the hot season which lasts upto about the middle of June.

1. The Deputy Director General of Observatories, (Climatology and Geophysics), Poona.

The south-west monsoon season is from the middle of June to about the end of September. October and November constitute the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

Rainfall—Records of rainfall in the district are available for 6 stations for periods ranging from 71 to 85 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in Statements I·2 and I·3. The average annual rainfall in the district is 810·8 mm. (31·93"). The rainfall in the district in general increases from south-west to the north-east upto Idar and thereafter decreases. The rainfall thus varies from 739·1 mm. (29·10") at Prantij to 974·0 mm. (38·35") at Idar. About 96 per cent of the annual normal rainfall in the district is received during the south-west monsoon months from June to September, the rainiest month being July. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is large. In the 50 year period from 1901 to 1950, 1944 was the year with the highest annual rainfall which amounted to 185 per cent of the normal. The lowest annual rainfall which was only 34 per cent of the normal occurred in 1911. In the same 50 year period, the annual rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 15 years. Such low rainfall occurred consecutively for two years twice and for three years once. Considering the annual rainfall at the individual stations also, two and three consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred more than thrice at some stations. Even 4 consecutive years of rainfall less than 80 per cent of normal, occurred once at Mohanpur. It will be seen from Statement I·3 that the annual rainfall in the district was between 600 and 1100 mm. (23·62" and 43·31") in 31 years out of 50 years.

On an average, there are 37 rainy days (*i. e.*, days with rainfall of 2·5 mm. 10 cents or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 33 at Mohanpur to 41 at Idar.

The highest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 463·3 mm. (18·24") at Idar on 13th August, 1941.

Temperature—There is a meteorological observatory in the district at Idar and the records of this observatory are available for only 6 years. The description of the climate of the district which follows is based on the available records at Idar, supplemented by the records of the observatories in the neighbouring districts, where similar climatic conditions prevail. There is a steady increase in temperatures after February. May and the early part of June constitute the hottest part of the year. The mean daily maximum temperature in May is 40·7°C (105·3°F) and the mean daily minimum 25·8°C (78·4°F). The weather is very hot and oppressive in the latter part of the summer season and scorching dust laden winds which is a common feature on many days make the weather very uncomfortable. On individual days, the maximum temperature goes above 43°C or 44°C

(109·4°F or 111·2°F). Afternoon thundershowers which occur on some days bring welcome relief from the heat though only temporarily. With the advance of the monsoon into the district by about the middle of June, there is appreciable drop in the day temperature, but the nights continue to be warm, nearly as warm as in latter part of the summer season. By about the end of September, the monsoon withdraws from the district, the day temperatures begin to increase and a secondary maximum in the day temperatures is reached in October. However, the nights become progressively cooler. January is generally the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 27·4°C (81·3°F) and the mean daily minimum at 14·5°C (58·1°F). In association with the passage across north India of western disturbances during the cold season, the district is affected by cold waves, the minimum temperature on such occasions going down to about 4°C or 5°C (39·2°F or 41·0°F).

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Idar during the five years for which records are available was 46·6°C (115·9°F) on 27th April, 1958. The lowest minimum was 4·8°C (40·6°F) recorded on 22nd January, 1962.

Humidity—Except during the south-west monsoon season when the relative humidity is generally high, the air is dry. The summer season is the driest part of the year when the relative humidities in the afternoons are of the order of 20 per cent.

Cloudiness—During the monsoon season the skies are generally heavily clouded or overcast. In the rest of the year the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds—Winds are generally light with some strengthening in force during the latter part of the summer and early monsoon season. During the period April to September, winds are mainly from directions south and west, the south-westerlies being more common. In October, winds are light and variable in direction, easterlies and north-easterlies being more common in the mornings and westerlies and north-westerlies in the afternoons. In the period November to March, winds in the mornings are mostly from directions between east and north, while in the afternoon they are generally from directions between west and north.

Special Weather Phenomena—During the monsoon months, depressions from the Bay of Bengal affect the weather over the district causing widespread heavy rain and gusty winds. Thunderstorms occur during the period March to October.

Statements I·4, I·5 and I·6 give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenimena for Idar.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT

Normals and

Station 1		No. of years of data 2	January 3	February 4	March 5	April 6	May 7	June 8	July 9	August 10	September 11
Himatnagar	..	50 (a)	3.3	2.5	2.0	0.5	10.2	82 0	322.1	241.8	114.8
		(b)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.5	3.9	13.2	11.6	5.2
Idar	..	50 (a)	2.5	3.8	2 5	0.8	10.4	97.3	405.1	314.5	122.9
		(b)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.7	4.0	14.9	13.6	6.0
Prantij	..	50 (a)	3.6	2.0	1.8	1.0	7.6	80.0	300.0	218.9	110.0
		(b)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	3.9	12.9	10 9	5.0
Modasa	..	50 (a)	2.0	2.8	1.8	2.0	10.7	90.4	330.5	251.2	117.6
		(b)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.7	4.2	13.6	11.8	5.4
Bayad	..	50 (a)	1.8	1.3	1.5	1.3	7.9	82.5	312.7	237.2	120.9
		(b)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	4.2	13.3	11 3	5.7
Mohanpur	..	48 (a)	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.8	7.1	89.4	304.8	225.3	100.8
		(b)	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4	4.1	12.0	10.5	4.8
Sabarkantha (District)		(a)	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.2	9.0	86.9	329.2	248.1	114.5
		(b)	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	4 1	13.3	11.6	5.3

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain·

* Based on all available data upto 1965

** Years given in brackets.

I·2

Extremes of Rainfall

October 12	November 13	December 14	Annual 15	Highest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year** 16	Lowest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year** 17	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours* Amount (mm.) 18	Date 19
11.2	3.3	0.5	794.2	194 (1944)	25 (1911)	257.8	1919 August, 24
0.7	0.3	0.1	36.1				
8.1	4.8	1.3	974.0	215 (1944)	31 (1915)	463.3	1941 August, 13
0.7	0.3	0.1	41.2				
8.1	5.8	0.3	739.1	186 (1933)	26 (1911)	384.8	1950 September, 18
0.7	0.4	0.1	35.2				
11.4	5.8	1.0	827.2	190 (1944)	33 (1918)	387.3	1937 July, 18
0.8	0.5	0.1	37.8				
12.5	4.3	0.8	784.7	181 (1950)	28 (1918)	307.3	1950 September, 19
0.7	0.2	0.1	36.8				
8.6	2.5	0.3	746.2	199 (1944)	24 (1911)	265 4	1931 August, 23
0.5	0.2	0.0	33.4				
10.0	4.4	0.7	810.8	185 (1944)	34 (1911)		
0.7	0.3	0.1	36.7				

fall 2.5 mm. or more).

STATEMENT I-3

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District (Data 1901-1950)

Range in mm. 1		No. of years 2	Range in mm. 3		No. of years 4
201-300	..	2	901-1000		2
301-400	..	2	1001-1100	..	10
401-500	..	6	1101-1200	..	2
501-600	..	2	1201-1300	..	2
601-700	..	3	1301-1400	..	2
701-800	..	11	1401-1500	..	0
801-900	..	5	1501-1600	..	1

STATEMENT I-4

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity

(IDAR)

Month	Mean daily maximum temperature	Mean daily minimum temperature	Highest maximum ever recorded		Lowest minimum ever recorded		Relative humidity	
							0830 per cent	1730* per cent
	°C	°C	°C	Date	°C	Date		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January ..	27.4	14.5	33.5	1965 Jan. 14	4.8	1962 Jan. 22	44	30
February	30.2	16.9	36.3	1960 Feb. 16	8.5	1964 Feb. 2	38	24
March ..	34.7	19.9	41.9	1959 Mar. 23	9.4	1960 Mar. 22	35	18
April ..	38.7	23.5	46.0	1958 Apr. 27	15.7	1958 Apr. 7	39	18
May ..	40.7	25.8	44.9	1962 May 21	20.0	1964 May 29	55	23
June ..	37.9	25.9	43.3	1958 Jun. 2	20.6	1958 June 11	75	42
July ..	31.8	24.4	40.2	1965 Jul. 19	20.4	1958 Jul. 20	90	71
August ..	30.6	23.9	36.6	1965 Aug. 20	21.3	1958 Aug. 7	91	73
September	31.5	23.2	39.0	1960 Sep. 23	18.3	1963 Sep. 22	86	65
October ..	34.1	20.8	39.3	1965 Oct. 14	11.0	1961 Oct. 30	57	39
November	32.0	19.4	36.8	1964 Nov. 2	10.9	1964 Nov. 22	36	30
December	29.0	16.0	34.3	1963 Dec. 11	8.7	1964 Dec. 11	41	32
Annual .	33.2	21.1					57	39

* Hours → Indian Standard Time.

STATEMENT I·5

Mean Wind Speed in km./hr.

(IDAR)

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
7.6	7.5	7.7	8.4	9.0	11.3	8.8	6.4	5.8	5.8	6.7	6.7	7.7

STATEMENT I·6

Special Weather Phenomena

(IDAR)

Mean No. of days with	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Thunder ..	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.2	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.3	1.4	0.2	0.0	14.6
Hail ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dust-storm	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.	0.7
Squall ..	0.0	0.0	0 0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.	0.0
Fog ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0 2	1.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0

ANNEXURE

1951 Territorial Units Constituting the Present Set-up of

(Only those names / areas which have undergone

District/Taluka/ Mahal	1951 Territorial units	Details of gain in territories: Brief description	Area: Square miles	Area: Square kms.
1	2	3	4	5
Idar ..	As in 1951	Singha village (Sl. No. 128) transferred from Himatnagar taluka	1.5	3.9
Vijaynagar	As in 1951	3 villages, *viz*, Masuta (Sl. No. 107), Bhagorapada (Sl. No. 14) and Bogapada (Sl. No. 22) transferred from Bhiloda taluka	0.7	1.8
Bhiloda ..	As in 1951	(i) Sangal village (Sl. No. 122) transferred from Himatnagar taluka ..	0.3	0.8
		(ii) 2 villages, *viz.*, Indrapura (Sl. No. 132) and Vagheshwari (Sl. No. 220) transferred from Idar taluka ..	1.6	4.1
		(iii) Kanadar village (Sl. No. 40) transferred from Vijaynagar mahal..	6.0	15.5
Himatnagar	As in 1951	(i) 2 villages, *viz.*, Lolasan (Sl. No. 132) and Mahadevpura (Sl. No. 134) transferrod from Idar taluka ..	3.0	7.8
		(ii) 9 villages transferred from Modasa taluka	14.5	37.6
		(iii) Vijarapnomath village (Sl. No. 131) transferred from Prantij taluka..	0.4	1.0
Prantij ..	as in 1951	—	..	..
Modasa ..	As in 1951	(i) Fula village (Sl. No. 51) transferred from Bhiloda taluka	0.2	0.5
		(ii) Jashvantpura village (Sl. No. 46) transferred from Prantij taluka ..	0.9	2.3

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, *Sabarkantha District*, Ahmedabad, (1964), Part II, p. 7.

I

District and Each Taluka/Mahal

changes since 1951 have been shown below)

Details of loss in territories	Net area Gain (+) Loss (—)			
	Area			
Brief description 6	Square miles 7	Square kms. 8	Square miles 9	Square kms. 10
(1) (i) 2 villages, *viz.*, Indrapura (Sl. No. 84) and Vagheshwari (Sl. No. 220) transferred to Bhiloda taluka ..	1.6	4.1	—3.1	—8.0
(ii) 2 villages, *viz.*, Lolasan (Sl. No. 132) and Mahadevpura (Sl. No. 134) transferred to Himatnagar taluka ..	3.0	7.8	..	..
(2) Kanadar village (Sl. No. 40) transferred to Bhiloda taluka	6.0	15.5	—5.3	—13.7
(3) (i) 3 villages, *viz.*, Masnta (Sl. No. 107), Bhagorapada (Sl. No. 14) and Bhogapada (Sl. No. 22) transferred to Vijaynagar mahal	0.7	1.8	+7.0	+18.1
(ii) Futa village (Sl. No. 51) transferred to Modasa taluka	0.2	0.5	..	..
(4) (i) Sangal village (Sl. No. 122) transferred to Bhiloda taluka .	0.3	0.8	+16.1	+41.7
(ii) Singha village (Sl. No. 128) transferred to Idar taluka	1.5	3.9	..	..
(i) Vijarapnomath village (Sl. No. 131) transferred to Himatnagar taluka..	0.4	1.0	—1.3	—3.3
(ii) Jashvantpura village (Sl. No. 40) transferred to Modasa taluka ..	0.9	2.3	..	..
(2) 9 villages transferred to Himatnagar taluka	14.5	37.5	—13.4	—34.8

SUB-ANNEXURE I TO ANNEXURE I

Area for 1951 and 1961 for those Municipal Towns which have undergone changes in Area since 1951 Census

District	Municipal Town	Area in square miles		Remarks
		1951	1961	
1	2	3	4	5
Sabarkantha ..	Modasa ..	0.44	2.31	Jurisdictional change

SUB-ANNEXURE II TO ANNEXURE I

District/Taluka/Mahal showing 1951 Population According to Territorial Jurisdiction in 1951, Changes in Area and the Population Involved in those Changes

(This relates to Appendix to Table A-II which exhibits data upto district level in Census of India 1961, Volume V, Part II-A, Gujarat)

District / Taluka Mahal	Area in 1961		1961 population	Area in 1951		1951 population according to jurisdiction prevailing in 1951	Population in 1951 adjusted to jurisdiction of 1961	Net increase (+) in or decrease (—) between column 7 and column 8
	Square miles	Square kms.		Square miles	Square kms.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sabarkantha District	**2,735.0**	**7,083.6**	**918,587**	**2,447.0 (+288.0)£**	**6,337.7 (+745.9)£**	**684,017**	**684,017**	..
Idar*	423.1	1,095.8	153,426	422.0 (+1.1)	1,093.0 (+2.8)	119,138 (—496)	118,462	—496
Khedbrahma	316.1	818.7	74,475	143.0 (+173.1)	370.4 (+448.3)	52,166	52,166	..
Vijaynagar*"	160.6	416.0	30,111	153.0 (+7.6)	396.3 (+19.7)	21,376 (—602)	20,774	—602
Bhiloda† ..	262.2	679.1	90,766	187.0 (+75.2)	484.3 (+194.8)	61,696 (+805)	62,501	+805
Himatnagar ††	278.5	721.3	110,708	298.0 (—19.5)	771.8 (—50.5)	80,142 (+3,018)	83.160	+3,018
Prantij‡ ..	319.4	827.2	144,475	301.0 (+18.4)	779.6 (+47.6)	112,345 (—155)	112,190	—155
Modasa ‡‡ ..	336.7	872.1	118,434	410.0 (—73.3)	1,061.9 (—189.8)	89,924 (—2,570)	87,354	—2,570
Meghraj ..	214.0	554.2	50,291	138.0 (+76.0)	357.4 (+196.8)	35,718	35,719	..
Malpur ..	142.7	369.6	38,214	132.0 (+10.7)	341.9 (+27.7)	28,129	28,129	..
Bayad ..	281.7	729.6	107,687	264.0 (+17.7)	683.8 (+45.8)	83,383	83,383	..

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, *District Census Handbook*, *Sabarkantha District*, Ahmedabad, (1964,) Part II, pp. 7-8.

NOTE :

£ Though this district has not shown any increase or decrease in population since 1951, there is an increase in area due to survey of unsurveyed areas.

• Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D., No. T. L. C. 1359 / 43810-C, dated 30th March, 1959,

(a) Singha village (1.5) was transferred from Himatnagar taluka of Sabarkantha district to Idar taluka of the same district.

(b) The following two villages were transferred from Idar taluka of Sabarkantha district to Bhiloda taluka of the same district :
Indrapura (0.4) and Vagheshwari (1.2).

(c) The following 2 villages were transferred from Idar taluka of Sabarkantha district to Himatnagar taluka of the same district.
Lolasan (2.1) and Mahadevpura (0.9).

•• Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D., No. T. L. C. 1359 / 43810-C, dated 30th March, 1959.

(a) The following 3 villages were transferred from Bhiloda taluka of Sabarkantha district to Vijaynagar Mahal of the same district.
Masuta (0.4), Bhagorapada (0.2) and Bogapada (0.1).

(b) Kanadar village (6.0) was transferred from Vijaynagar mahal of Sabarkantha district to Bhiloda taluka of the same district.

† Under Bombay Government Resolution, R D., No. T. L. C. 1359 / 43810-D, date .0th March, 1959,

(a) Sangal village (0.3) was transferred from Himatnagar taluka of Sabarkatha district to Bhiloda taluka of the same district.

(b) The following 2 villages were transferred from Idar taluka of Sabarkantha district to Bhiloda taluka of the same district.
Indrapura (0.4) and Vagheshwari (1.2).

(c) Kanadar village (6.0) was transferred from Vijaynagar mahal of Sabarkantha district to Bhiloda taluka of the same district.

(d) The following 3 villages were transferred from Bhiloda taluka of Sabarkantha district to Vijaynagar mahal of the same district.
Masuta (0.4), Bhagorapada (0.2) and Bogapada (0.1).

(e) Futa village (0.2) was transferred from Bhiloda taluka of Sabarkantha district to Modasa taluka of the same district.

†† Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D., No. T. L. C. 1359 / 43810-C, dated 30th March, 1959,

(a) The following 2 villages were transferred from Idar taluka of Sabarkantha district to Himatnagar taluka of the same district.
Lolasan (2.1) and Mahadevpura (0.9).

(b) Vijrapnomath village (0.4) was transferred from Prantij taluka of Sabarkantha district to Himatnagar taluka of the same district.

(c) Sangal village (0.3) was transferred from Himatnagar taluka of Sabarkantha district to Bhiloda taluka of the same district.

(d) Singha village (1.5) was transferred from Himatnagar taluka of Sabarkantha district to Idar taluka of the same district.

2 Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D., No. T. L. C. 1359-133679-C, dated 11th November, 1959, the following villages were transferred from Modasa taluka of Sabarkantha district to Himatnagar taluka of the same district.

Bhatoda (Navalpur) (1.1), Jawangadh (0.7), Raigadh (8.1), Raipur (0.7), Bilpan (0.5). Vagadi (1.9), Gambhirpur (0.4), Fulpur (0.3) and Jawanpura (0.8).

‡ 1 Under Bomby Government Resolution, R. D., No. T. L. C. 1359 / 43810-C, dated 30th March, 1959, Vijrapnomath village (0.4) was transferred from Prantij taluka of Sabarkantha district to Himatnagar taluka of the same district.

2 Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D., No. 6342 / 49, dated 7th October, 1950, Jashvantpura village (0.9) was transferred from Prantij taluka of Sabarkantha district to Modasa taluka of the same district.

‡‡ 1 Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D., No. T. L. C. 1359 / 43810-C, dated 30th March, 1959, Futa village (0.2) was transferred from Bhiloda taluka of Sabarkantha district to Modasa taluka of the same district.

2 Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D., No. 6342 / 49, dated 7th October, 1950, 'Jashvantpura village (0.9) was transferred from Prantij taluka of Sabarkantha district to Modasa taluka of the same district.

3 Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D., No. T. L. C. 1359 / 133679-C, dated 11th November, 1959, 9 villages as above were transferred from Modasa taluka of Sabarkantha district to Himatnagar taluka of the same district.

ANNEXURE II

Forest Privileges and Concessions

In Sabarkantha district for merged areas of Idar, Vijaynagar, Gadhwada Thana and Malpur States the following privileges are allowed :

(a) *Bhiloda, Vadali, Ishri and Raigadh Range Forests* :

(1) Collection of dead-wood purely for domestic consumption, removal being allowed on headloads.

(2) Free collection of gum and its sale to local shop-keepers. (The Government may authorise the shop-keepers to buy gum).

(b) *Malpur-Magodi Range Forests* :

(1) The ryots enjoy the rights of taking dry fire-wood from the forests for their personal requirements free of cost and timber which could be used for agricultural implements at concessional rates.

(c) *Attarsumba and Vijaynagar Range Forests* :

(1) Collection of dead-wood for their *bonafide* use,

(2) Collection of grass for their *bonafide* use,

(3) Free grazing of cattle,

(4) Collection of leaf for compost.

(5) Collection of "Safed Musali". Gum. Puvad and other minor forest produce like timru leaves for sale to authorised contractors.

General : (1) Collection of Mhowra flowers and Mhowra seeds and other fruits and seeds like Timru fruits, Karanj seed for domestic use only.

(2) Collection of earth and stone for house construction

(3) Collection of material for hedges granted under a permit in the name of the Mukhi of the village.

(4) Collection of material for agricultural implements granted under a permit issued in the name of the village Mukhi.[1]

1. Government of Gujarat, *Forest Privileges in the Gujarat State*, Baroda, 1961, pp. 20-21.

In 1970, the Government had sanctioned the following concessions for the Adivasis of the Poshina Jagir in the Khedbrahma taluka.[1]

(1) Collection of dead-wood from fallen trees for their *bonafide* use.

(2) Collection of grass for their *bonafide* use.

(3) Free grazing of cattle.

(4) Collection of leaves for compost.

(5) Collection of "Safed Musli", Gum, Puwad and other minor forest produce like Timru leaves for sale to authorised contractors.

(6) Collection of Mhowra flowers and Mhowra seeds and other fruits and seeds like Timru fruits, Karanj seeds for domestic use only.

(7) Collection of earth and stone for house construction.

(8) Collection of material for hedges.

(9) Collection of material for agricultural implements granted under a permit.

(10) Free supply of wood for agricultural implements, agricultural purposes and at 50 per cent rate timber supply for house construction. This concession is also available to Vijaynagar mahal.

The concessions granted to the Adivasis should also be granted to the Sub-Jagirs of Poshina Jagir shown below :

(1) Derol (2) Kheroj (3) Dharoya (4) Agiya (5) Vanol (6) Bahadiya (7) Damavas (8) Dhoda and (9) Gota.

1. *Vide* Government Resolution, Agriculture and Co-operation Department, MFP/1069 / 74240 / P, dated 7th October, 1970.

Note—For the concessions at Serial No. (8) and (9) the permits are to be issued in the name of Sarpanch and for the remaining items in the name of village Mukhi.

ANNEXURE III

Medicinal Herbs in the Sabarkantha District[1]

It has been pointed out in the section on 'Forests' that the Sabarkantha district comprises 641·55 sq. kms. of forests. There are quite a good number of medicinal herbs which can be profitably utilised for curing physical ailments and diseases In 1964, the Government of Gujarat, therefore, appointed a "Committee for Gardens of Medicinal Plants" consisting of eminent Vaidyas and State Director of Industries, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Gujarat State and the Director of Drugs Control Administration, as members to make a comprehensive study of the medicinal plants available in the forests in the State and to suggest ways and means of their large scale use in the preparation of the Ayurvedic medicines for the benefit of the general public. The main idea behind the constitution of the committee was to prevent the manufacture and sale of spurious and sub-standard drugs and to develop the sources of raw materials necessary for medicinal preparations and also to examine potentialities of developing the gardens of medicinal plants as State enterprise on commercial basis, and to conduct research for the purpose.

The Committee visited the forests of Sabarkantha, oldest in the world and spread over 500 to 700 sq kms. About the medicinal herbs of Vijaynagar forests in Sabarkantha district the committee has observed :

"Moreover, after being impressed by the vastness of nature, and the green mountains, full of uniformly situated forests of Wrightia tinctoria, Aegle-marmelos, Pongamia glabra and Vitex nagundo, the Committee travelled 130 miles. On entering into Idar, Ghano mountain covered with various herbs, emerges into sight. Near the hunting ground also, many herbs are to be noticed. There are many other objects to be found. The four-headed statue of Brahma, at a place where Lord Brahma initiated cultivation suggests that the Creator of Ayurveda has full knowledge of all directions ; and he has chosen Sabarkantha, which is a garden of medicinal plants. This Brahma has written a 'Samhita' containing one lakh Shlokas ; but it is not available to us. After leaving Khedbrahma and Laxmipura comes Chhilvad, where the statue of Goddess Shitala is to be found in the most ancient temple. The committee gathered information about its history. On the bank of the Harnav, in this forest, an independent faculty for diseases of the type of small-pox, chicken-pox, and measles used to function. At present the river has deviated a little in its course. All the hills of Harnav Bandh are quite green. These hills are full of Aegle marmelos of five and seven leaves, Pongamia glabra, Sapindus laurifolias, Balsamodendron mukul, Emblica, Nyctanthes arbor-tristis and Boswellia

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1 Gujarat State, *Report of the Committee for Gardens of Medicinal Plants*, appointed by the Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, 1969.

serrata. Even in the scorching summer, this area remains green and cool, because the river Hiranya Ganga runs through the whole forests, in a serpentine way and at some places, it looks dry for miles together but the underground water is ample. This is the peculiarity of this area. The committee feels that one another committee should be formed to study the herbs of the hills from Ganva to the Ashram of Amba Mahuda and from that place to Chitra-Vichitra, where two rivers the Akal and Vyakal meet; this area is known as Poshina Patta and there flows the river Sheyi and on its banks grow various herbs. The forests of this area are full of Alsevera and Justicia Ricta which are used to cure infantile liver disease. Trees of Eriodendron anfractuosum, with pods and flowers, which is used to purify blood, adds to the beauty of the forest. From this side on way to Abu, the forests of bamboos are seen. Behind the Ashram of Amba Mahuda, and on ascending the four thousand feet high Songadh mountain, we see the plane where many plants of मरडासिंगी are seen, among them many trees of Balsamodendron mukul add to the beauty. Near Ganva stands the tree of Elaeocarpus ganitrus with fruits. This is a historical place too. After visiting Sabarkantha, the committee has come to the conclusion that in ancient times, the botanical gradens must have been well planned. The banks of Sheyi and Harnav, as well as, Polo, Kalvan, and Dholvan confirm this impression". About Kalvan and Dholvan forests the Committee states :

"The committee has realised the great difference between the forest and the wood अरण्य. In the forest, the committee has seen the trees of Nyctanthes arbor-tristis, Jasmine, चंपा and the trees of cobeus swinging like earrings as well as beautiful dark purple coloured trees of Cassia javanica, which are not to be found in a wood. In the wood, the Tactona grandis are planted in large quantity, but in Kalvan and Dholvan Tectona grandis are not seen but symmetrical trees of Aegle marmelos, Terminalia belerica, Acacia catechu, Wrightia tinctoria and Diospyros embryopteris were seen in great numbers. In this wood, there is a place of Vireshwar, which is a centre of these herbs. Here, the committee saw the trees of genuine Terminalia arjuna for the first time. These two forests have almost perished; it will be in the interest of the Ayurveda, if they are still properly protected and grazing is not allowed. The committee especially recommends their total protection. Instead of using them for producing coal and for selling टीमरू timru, these woods should be utilised for producing medicinal herbs which are of great importance to mankind and which save crores of rupees by way of foreign exchange. It can be inferred from what we have seen that even before Moghuls, there must have been rulers who might have planted medicinal herbs in a planned manner. The Committee in particular is led to infer that during the Hindu regime, thousands of new trees were being planted The Committee thinks of 'Hindu' rulers because it has seen Hindu temples and shrines at many places. The Committee has the mixed feelings of grief and joy, at the sight of this extensive area.

Green trees with multicoloured fresh buds, green bamboos and bed of Brahmi of the forests of Rajasthan, Polo, and Vijaynagar were source of delight to the Committee. But the members of the Committee, when they saw that most precious, the most useful and two hundred years old trees like Acacia catechu, Gmelina arborea and Terminalia belerica were being turned to fuel, they were immensely sad. Their deepest feelings were that, these forests should not be handed over to the contractors and Government should not care for such a few lakhs of rupees. Small booklets about these two forests with their medicinal plants as well as about Vireshwar, can be published. On the Vireshwar hills, there are some plants of Berberis aristata, which are used in the treatment of swelling."

About the forests of Polo, the Committee states :

"In the rear part of Ashram herbs like Aegle marmelos, Premna integrifolia, Acacia catechu, "कांटी" and Boswellia serrata are to be found. Polo means passage, that is why, it is named so. There are many temples of Shiva and Shakti. Amid this area of Abhapur, there flows Harnav. The facility of water and the quality of the earth of surrounding hills indicate that there are possibilities of growing vegetation of 'दशमूल', 'वसण 'ध्रिगण', and 'जीवनीयगण' type, if 200-300 acres of land are acquired for a botanical garden. Moreover, a store can be established at Vijaynagar, where herbs may be collected in crude form. In this forest, the committee has come across plants belonging to the "जीवनीयगण" like Randia dumatorum 'पीळो चित्रक" Plumbago rosea, Plumbago zeylanica, Veronenia cinerea, Brahmi, Terminalia belerica (big), Swertia chirota, Zimostora cordifalia, Vitis latisfalia, "मरडाशिंगी", Acacia catechu, Eriodendron anfractuosum, Cymboposon Seha enanthus, Sapindus laurifolias, Oryxylum indicum, Balsamodendron mukul, Punarnava, Bhrungraj, Adropogon muricatus, Nimosa pudica, Cypherus ratundus, Vitex negundo, Berria capensis, Wrightia tinctoria, Banyan, Piper, Filus lomeratai "जंगली कांदा", etc. If a botanical garden is made near Polo, waters of the Harnav will be available and as by installation of motor-pumps horticulture can be resorted to".

ANNEXURE IV

Birds of Sabarkantha District

1 The Little Cormorant
Phalacrocorax niger (Vieillot)

2 The Darter or Snake-bird
Anhinga melanogaster (Pennant)

3 The Spoonbill
Platalea leucorodia (Temm & Schleg.)

4 The Crested Honey Buzzard
Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis (Lesson)

5 The Common Pariah Kite
Milvus migrans govinda (Sykes)

6 The Brahminy Kite
Haliastur indus indus (Boddaert)

7 The Indian Shikra
Accipiter badius dussumieri (Temm. & Laugier)

8 Bonelli's Eagle
Hieraetus fasciatus fasciatus (Vieillot)

9 The Booted Eagle
Hieraets pennatus (Gmelin)

10 The Greater Spotted Eagle
Aquila clanga (Pallas)

11 The Marsh Harrier
Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus (Linnaeus)

12 The Short-toed Eagle
Circaetus gallicus gallicus (Gmelin)

13 The Crested Serpent Eagle
Spilornis cheela minor (Hume)

14 The Laggar Falcon
Falco jugger (J. E. Gray)

15 The Redcapped Falcon
Falco peregrinoides babylonicus (Sclater)

16 The Kestrel
Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus (Linnaeus)

17 The Blackbreasted or Rain-Quail
Coturnix coromandelica (Gmelin)

18 The Rock Bush-Quail
Perdicula argoondah spp.

19 The Red Spurfowl
Galloperdix spadicea spadicea (Gmelin)

20 The Grey Jungle fowl
Gallus Sonnerati (Temm.)

21 The Eastern Baillon's Crake
Porzana pusilla pusilla (Pallas)

22 The Whitebreasted Waterhen
Amaurornis phoenicurus spp.

23 The Indian Moorhen
Gallinula chloropus indica (Blyth)

24 The Coot
Fulica atra atra (Linn.)

25 The Pheasant-tailed Jacana
Hydrophasianus chirurgus (Scopoli)

26 The Green Sandpiper
Tringa ochropus (Linnaeus)

27 The Cream-coloured Courser
Cursorius cursor cursor (Latham)

28 The Indian Courser
Cursorius coromandelicus (Gmelin)

29 The Southern Green Pigeon
Treron pheenicoptera chlorigaster (Blyth)

30 The Blue Rock Pigeon
Columba livia spp.

31 The Indian Ring Dove
Streptopelia risoria risoria (Linnaeus)

32 The Red Turtle Dove
Streptopelia eranqueberica

33 The Large Indian Parakeet
Psittacula eupatria nipalensis (Hodgson)

34 The Blossom-headed Parakeet
Psittacula cyanocephala bengalensis (Forst)

35 The Koel
Eudynamis scolopaceus scolopaceus (Linnaeus)

36 The Southern Sirkeer Cuckoo
Taccocua leschenaulti leschenaulti (Lesson)

37 The Barn Owl
Tyto alba stertens (Hartert)

38 The Indian Great Horned Owl
Bubo bubo bengalensis (Franklin)

39 The Mottled Wood Owl
Strix ocellata ocellata (Lesson)

40 The Small Indian Kingfisher
Alcedo atthis bengalensis (Gmelin)

41 The Brownheaded Strokbilled Kingfisher
Pelargopsis capensis, gurial (Pearson)

42 The Grey Hornbill
Tockus birostris (Scopoli)

43 The Large Green Barbet
Megalaima zeylanicus inornata (Walden)

44 The Crimsonbreasted Barbet
Megalaima haemacephala indica (Latham)

45 The Goldenbacked Woodpecker
Dinopium benghalense benghalense (Linnaeus)

46 The Yellowfronted Pied Woodpecker
Picoides mahrattensis mahrattensis (Latham)

47 The Redwinged Bush Lark
Mirafra erythropterea sindiana (Ticehurst)

48 The Yarkand Short-toed Lark
Calandrella cinerea longipennis (Eversmann)

49 The Indian Common Wood Shrike
Tephrodornis pondicerianus pondicerianus (Gmelin)

50 The Large Indian Cuckoo Shrike
Coracina novaehollandiae macei (Lesson)

51 The Little Minivet
Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus (Linnaeus)

52 The Central Indian Iora
Aegithina tiphia humei (Stuart Baker)

53 Marshall's Iora
Aegithina nigrolutea (Marshall)

54 The White-eared Bulbul
Pycnonotus leucotis leucotis (Gould)

55 The European Redbreasted Flycatcher
Muscicapa parva parva

56 Tickell's Redbreasted Blue Flycatcher
Muscicapa tickelliae tickelliae (Blyth)

57 The Grey-headed Flycatcher
Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea (Oberholser)

58 The Small Whitethroated Babbler
Dumetia hyperythra albogularis (Blyth)

59 The Western Yellow-eyed Babbler
Chrysomma sinense hypoleuca (Franklin)

60 The Jungle Babbler
Turdoides somervillei orientalis

61 The Common Babbler
Turdoides caudata caudata (Dumont)

62 The Large Grey Babbler
Turdoides malcolmi (Sykes)

63 Sykes's Tree Warbler
Hippolais caligata rama (Sykes)

64 The Tailor Bird
Orthotomus sutorius guzurata (Latham)

65 Stewart's Ashy Wren-Warbler
Prinia socialis stewarti (Blyth)

66 Franklin's Wren-Warbler
Prinia gracilis gracilis (Franklin)

67 The Rufousfronted Wren-Warbler
Prinia buchanani (Blyth)

68 The Eastern White-spotted Bluethroat
Erithacus svecicus abbotti (Richmond)

69 The Kashmir Redstart
Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides (Moore)

70 The Brown-backed Indian Robin
Saxicoloides fulicata cambyensis (Latham)

71 The Blue Rock Thrush
Monticola soiltarius pandoo (Sykes)

72 The Isabelline Chat
Oenanthe isabellina (Cretzchm)

73 Strickland's Chat
Oenanthe opistholeuca (Strickland)

74 The Eastern Tawny Pipit
Anthus campestris griseus (Nicoll)

75 The Baybacked Shrike
Lanius vittatus (Valenciennes)

76 The Spotted Grey Creeper
Salpornis spilonotus spilonotus (Franklin)

77 The Whitewinged Black Tit
Parus nuchalis (Jerdon)

78 The Indian Grey Tit
Parus major stupae (Koelz)

79 The Central Indian Yellowcheeked Tit
Parus xanthogenys aplonotus (Blyth)

80 The Purple Sunbird
Nectarinia asiatica asiatica (Latham)

81 The White-eye
Zosterops Palpebrosa occidentis (Ticehurst)

82 The Greynecked Bunting
Emberiza buchanani (Blyth)

83 The Yellowthroated Sparrow
Petronia xanthocollis xanthocollis (Burton)

84 The Common Weaver Bird or Baya
Ploceus philippinus philippinus (Linnaeus)

85 The Indian Black Drongo
Dicrurus macrocercus peninsularis (Ticehurst)

86 The White-bellied Drongo
Dicrurus caerulescens caerulescens (Linnaeus)

87 The Peafowl
Pavo cristatus (Linnaeus)

PART II

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

ANCIENT PERIOD

The district derives its name from the Sabarmati river which flows on the northern and western borders. But in the early historic times, the region was known as *s'vabhra* (gully),[1] which forms its salient geographical feature.

PRE-HISTORY

As early as 1893, two pre-historic paleoliths (stone tools of the Old Stone Age)– a flake and a hand axe– were found near the village Sadolia in the Prantij taluka.[2] The site actually lay on the opposite bank of the river Sabarmati near Kot-Anodiya in the Mehsana district, but was named after Sadolia probably because it lay just opposite the latter.[3]

Another paleolith was discovered at Pedhamli in the Vijapur taluka of the present Mehsana district.[4] Dr. Sankalia also came across several paleoliths in the section of the river on the opposite bank near Kadoli in the Himatnagar taluka.[5] As investigations into pre-historic archaeology on the right bank of the Sabarmati yielded several paleolithic sites right from Hadol down to Warsora,[6] it is quite probable that such explorations on its left bank would also bring to light a number of similar sites in the Sabarkantha district as well.

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1. *Vide* Junagadh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman I, (*Ephigraphia Indica* Vol. VIII, pp. 42 ff.).

   Skanda Purana, (VI, 173.14), Sanskritises the name of the river into *Sabhramati* and derives its origin from *Sambharama* (whirling). The name also occurs in *Padma Purana* which contains a section on *Sabhramatimahatmya*. The Sanskritized form is obviously arbitrary and of late origin.

   The correct form *S'vabhravati* actually occurs in *Kavyamimamsa* (circa 900 A. D.) by Rajasekhara.

   The Sabarmati river is really named after *S'vabhra* (gully).

2. FOOTE, *Indian Prehistoric and Protohistoric Antiquities, Notes on Ages*, (1916), pp. 15 and 142.
3. SANKALIA H. D., *Investigations into Prehistoric Archaeology of Gujarat*, (1946), p. 13.
4. FOOTE, *op. cit.*, pp. 16 and 142.
5. SANKALIA H. D., *op. cit.*, pp. 19 ff.
6. *Ibid.*, pp. 13 ff.

The bank near Karoli has yielded microliths of various types such as scrapers, points, cores and blades.[1] These are assigned to the Late Stone Age (dated upto *circa* 2500 A. D.). From the Dhenk-Vadlo mound and other sites at Devnimori (Bhiloda taluka), microliths of the types mentioned above have also been collected.[2] The Devnimori industry seems to have been better worked and retouched than the Langhnaj collection in the Mehsana district.[3]

EARLY HISTORY (*circa 315 B. C.-470 A. D.*)

The documented history of Gujarat begins with the Mauryan period (*circa* 322-185 B. C.), but no particular reference to the Sabarkantha district as such is available until upto the Kshatrapa period (*circa* 85-400 A. D.). The Junagadh Rock Inscription of king *Mahākshatrap* Rudradaman I,[4] dated the year 150 A. D. alludes to *Śvabhra* among the territories under his sway. The occurrence of the Roman amphorae at Shamalaji and Devnimori is dated from about 50 A. D. to 400 A. D., and that of the Red Polished Ware from the 2nd century A. D. to the 5th century A. D.[5] Most of the coins discovered from Devnimori belong to the Kshatrapa period.[6] The beginning of the occupation at this site is assigned to the same period.[7] Here a great *vihāra* (monastery) for Buddhist monks was constructed in the 3rd century A. D.[8] Under its auspices, a great *stupa* was built by monks Agnivarman and Sudarsana, as the relic-casket inscription indicates. The epigraph which records that the *stupa* enshrined sacred relics of the Buddha is dated the year 127 of the Kathika kings and refers to the reign of Rudrasena.[9] It is tempting to identify Rudrasena with Rudrasena I of the Kshatrapa dynasty and ascribe the year to the Saka Era used in all other Kshatrapa records, equating it to 205-06 A. D. But stratigraphy, numismatics and iconography lead us to assign the construction to the 4th century A. D. and identify the king with Rudrasena III (*circa* 348-381 A. D.).[10] The great *vihāra* was extensively repaired at this time.[11] The two votive *stupas* and the *chaitya* were also built.[12] The excavation of the great *stupa* yielded several terracotta images of the Buddha.[13] Thus the open area on the river side was occupied by Buddhist monks. The Shaivites preferred more lonely places in the inner parts of the hilly region, as could be judged from the contemporary remains of their temples.[14]

1. SANKALIA H. D., *Investigations into Prehistoric Archaeology of Gujarat*, (1946), pp. 181 ff.
2. MALIK S. C., *Excavation at Devnimori*, Appendix C, (1966), pp. 188 ff.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ephigraphia Indica*, Vol. VIII, pp. 12 ff.
5. MEHTA R. N. AND PATEL A. J., *Excavation at Shamalaji*, (1967), pp. 6 f.
6. MEHTA R. N. AND CHOWDHARY S. N., *Excavation at Devnimori*, (1966), pp. 27, 104.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 28.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 29.
9. *Ibid.*, p. 121.
10. *Ibid.*, pp. 28 f.
11. *Ibid.*, p. 29.
12. *Ibid.*
13. *Ibid.*, pp. 141 ff.
14. *Ibid.*, p. 187.

Some of the sculptures found at or near Shamalaji are assignable to the Late Kshatrapa period, as for instance, a Matrika-like goddess, mother and child, Parvatī as a Bhil lady, Chāmundā, Māheshwarī, Aindrī, Vaishnavī, Āgneyī, Vārāhī, Vāyu, Gaṇas, Shiva (torso) and *Atlas*.[1] The *linga* with one face of Shiva, discovered at Khedbrahma belongs to the same period.[2]

By the beginning of the 5th century A. D., Gujarat passed under the power of the Imperial Guptas. But their hold over Gujarat remained only upto the death of Skandagupta in about 467 A. D. Shamalaji[3] has yielded some very rare and fine specimens of the Gupta art. Among these, the figure of Shiva with *nandi*, at his back, standing Ganesh, mother Goddess, Kaumārī, Bhadrā, Mātrikā, Kumāra, Vishnu and Gangā are the most prominent.[4]

THE MAITRAKA PERIOD (*circa 470-788 A. D.*)

Shortly after the decline of the Gupta power, Senāpati Bhatārka of the Maitraka family established his own kingdom at Valabhi in Saurashtra (*circa* 470 A. D.). The Maitraka kings extended their authority over the north Gujarat and Western Malwa and reigned for a pretty long period upto 788 A. D. Though more than a hundred copper-plate inscriptions of the Maitraka dynasty have come to light, none of these contains reference to any of the places in this district. Nevertheless, it is quite probable that, like the region around Anandapur (Vadnagar in Mehsana district), the region of this district also formed a part of the Maitraka kingdom.

Yuan Chwang (Hiuen Tsiang), the famous Chinese traveller, who visited Gujarat in about 640 A. D., has taken notice of a region named Atali,[5] the headquarters of which is probably represented by Vadali near Idar.[6] He describes this region in the following manner :

> "The country is about 6,000 *li* (1,000 *miles*) in *circuit*; *the* capital of the country is about 20 *li* (3½ miles) or so in circuit. The population is dense; the quality of gems and precious substances stored up is very great; the produce of the land is sufficient for all purposes, yet commerce is their principal occupation. The soil is salt and sandy, the fruits and flowers are not plentiful..... .... The climate is warm, windy and dusty."[7]

1. SHAH U. P., *Sculptures from Shamalaji and Roda*, (1960), pp. 121 ff, fig. 42, 23, 25, 38, 32, 36, 55, 59, 51; *Journal of Oriental Institute*, Baroda, Vol. XI, pp. 309 ff., fig. 1-3.
2. SHAH U. P., *op. cit.*, p. 127, fig. 54.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 117, fig. 1.
4. *Ibid.*, pp. 119, ff., fig. 14, 24, 26, 27, 46, 47, 49 and 60.
5. HIUEN TSIANG, *Buddhist Records of the Western World*, (1884), (Eng. trans. by Beal S.), Vol. II, p. 265.
6. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 442.
7. HIUEN TSIANG, *op. cit.*, p. 265.

Shamalaji continued to flourish during these periods as indicated by some sculptures discovered from the site. Among them *nandi* from Ranchhodji temple, now preserved in the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, standing Shiva in the Trilokanāth temple, Chāmundā and Vishvarupa in the small shrine on Vishrāmaghāta at Shamalaji deserve special mention.[1]

The group of temples at Roda (Himatnagar taluka) is assigned to the eighth century A. D, as their architectural form is the fore-runner of the full fledged *nagara* form of the Chalukya period.[2] Ganesh, Pārvatī, Chāmundā, Durgā and Surasundarīs are outstanding sculptures assigned to this period.[3] Major repairs to the great *stupa* at Devnimori were carried out during this period. The walls of the great *vihāra* were repaired. At least one votive *stupa* and probably *vihāra* II were built by this time. The Buddhist settlement probably came to an end in about 7th or 8th century A. D.[4]

POST-MAITRAKA PERIOD (*788-942 A. D.*)

Soon after the fall of Valabhi, the Rashtrakutas in south Gujarat extended their sway over the north Gujarat, which included the district of Sabarkantha. Harshapura, which formed the headquarters of a large administrative division consisting of 750 villages, is represented by modern Harsol in the Prantij taluka.[5] The Kapadvanj sub-division of 84 villages was included in this division and *Mahasamanta* Prachanda of Brahmavaka family ruled over this region.

Some other sculptures at Roda are assigned to this period. For instance, a seated image of Surya now in the Baroda Museum, probably belongs to the 8th or 9th century A. D.[6] The old temple at Agia (Khedbrahma taluka) also belongs to this period as judged by the pre-Chaulukya architectural form of its spire.

The Crude Red and Black Ware, burnished Red and burnished Black and Mica-dusted Ware found at Shamalaji are roughly ascribed to the period ranging from 400 to 1000 A. D.[7]

CHAULUKYA PERIOD (*942-1304 A. D.*)

Epigraphic records throw considerable light on the political conditions of this district during the Chaulukya period.

1. SHAH U. P., *Sculptures from Shamalaji and Roda*, 1960, pp. 117 ff., fig. 2, 21, 46, 48.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 113.
3. *Ibid.*, pp. 129 ff., fig. 65-76.
4. MEHTA R. N. AND CHOWDHARY S. N., *Excavation at Devnimori*, (1966), p. 30.
5. Kapadvanj grant of Krishna II, dated S'. E. 832, (910 A. D.), *Ephigraphic Indica*, Vol. I, pp. 52 ff.
6. SHAH U. P., *op. cit.*, pp. 130 ff., fig. 77.
7. MEHTA R. N. AND PATEL A. J., *Excavation at Shamalaji*, (1967), pp. 7 f.

Two copper-plate grants found at Harsol (dated V. S. 1005 or 949 A. D.)[1] were issued by king Siyaka II of the Paramāra dynasty from his sojourn on the bank of the Mahi river. The king owed allegiance to the Rāshtrakuṭa overlord Akālavarsadeva, *i. e.*, Krishna III (939-967 A. D). The Paramāra king granted two villages situated in the *Mohaḍavāsaka visayā*, *i e.*, the district round about *Mohaḍavāsaka* represented by modern Modasa. One of the two villages was Kumbharoṭaka, which is identified by the editor of epigraph with Kamroda, but which may better be identified with Kumbhera, both in the Meghraj taluka, east of Modasa. The other village was Sihaka, represented by modern Sika in the Modasa taluka. The recipients of the grants were Nāgaras of Anandapura (Vadnagar). The second plate of a third grant issued by Siyaka II was obtained from a coppersmith of Ahmedabad,[2] which is dated V. S. 1026 (970 A. D.). But as the first plate of the grant is missing it is difficult to ascertain the particulars about the land given in grant and its location. Probably, this grant also referred to some place pertaining to *Mohaḍavāsaka visayā*. Anyhow, the two epigraphs dated 949 A. D., clearly indicate that this district was under the power of the Paramāra dynasty, which was generally associated with Malwa and that the Paramāra kings acknowledged the supremacy of the Rāshṭrakuṭa sovereigns of the Deccan even after the establishment of the Chaulukya dynasty in the north Gujarat in 942 A. D. The supremacy of the Rāstrakuta dynasty continued upto the end of the reign of Krishna III, who was one of the ablest monarchs of the dynasty. But soon after his death (967 A. D.), Siyaka rose in rebellion against the suzerainty of the Rāshtrakuṭas and established independence of the Paramāra dynasty.[3]

The Paramāra kings of Malwa naturally remained in conflict with the Chaulukya kings of Anhilwad Patan, who ruled over the adjoining territory to the west of the Sabarmati river. But the former retained their hold over this district, as indicated by the Kokapur-Modasa plates of Vatsaraja dated V. S. 1067 (1011 A. D.).[4] *Mohaḍavāsaka Manḍala*, comprising 750 villages, was within the fief under Vatsaraia's possession. He is here designated *bhoktāra* (*bhoktā*) and *Maharajaputra*, but the name of his family is not specified. He owed allegiance to Bhojadeva, the Paramāra king of Malwa, who held imperial titles. The grantee was a Brahmana, who hailed from Harshapura (Harsol), while the land given in grant was situated within the precincts of the village, Sayanapata, represented by modern Sinavad in the Modasa taluka. The identification is corroborated by the vicinity of Kokapur, the original find-spot of the plates.

1. Two Harsol Grants of Paramara Siyaka, *Ephigraphia Indica*, Vol. XIX, pp. 236 ff.
2. A copper plate of the Paramara king Siyaka, *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XIX, p. 177.
3. MAJUMDAR R. C., (Ed.), *The Age of Imperial Kanauj*, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Publication, (1955), pp. 15 and 95.
4. Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Vol. V. Supplement, pp. 37 ff; *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 192 ff.

Khedbrahma continued to be a centre of Shaivism during this period, as indicated by the eight-armed figure of Shiva preserved in a back-niche of Pankheshwara Mahadev temple near the confluence of the Harnav, the Kosambi and the Bhimakshi rivers.[1] It is dated *circa* 10th-11th century A. D.

A mutilated idol of Shiva and Parvati, bearing an inscription dated V. S. 1104 (1048 A. D.), was found on the outskirts of Khed-Chandrani village in the Himatnagar taluka.[2] It probably belonged to the Roda temples nearby.

The priest of the Saptanath temple near Davad (Idar taluka) is in possession of a copy of the document, dated V. S. 1142 (1086 A. D.), which records the construction of the *kund* (reservoir) opposite the temple and the grant of some land to his ancestor.[3]

Vadali continued to flourish during this period. The image of Kadarā *Śresthin* bears an inscription, dated V. S. 1215 (1159 A. D.). In V. S. 1264 (1208 A. D.), Sahanapala, son of Haripala (who was a Pratihara of the Paramāra king Dhārāvarsha of Ābu), built the *maṇḍapa* (hall) of the Vaidyanath temple at Vadali. The hall was provided with splendid colonnades and decorated with figures on all sides. The *parikara* of the image Sambhavanath was renovated in V. S. 1271 (1215 A. D.). The *bimba* (image) of Shantinath was renovated by Kamalaprabhasuri at Vatapalli (Vadali) and consecrated by Somasuri in V. S. 1275 (1219 A. D.).[4]

At Davad (Idar taluka), there are some *paliyas* (memorial stones) near the Ankol Mata step-well, which are dated in the 13th century A. D. One of these, dated the V. S. 1305 (1249 A. D.), mentions the name of Davad.[5]

The Vaidyanath temple at Vadali contains an inscription of the time of Arjunadeva, dated the V. S. 1329 (1273 A. D.), wherein also the place is mentioned as Vatapalli.[6] Arjunadeva is obviously the king Arjunadeva of the Vaghela branch of the Chaulukya dynasty, which ruled over Gujarat since 1244 A. D. The epigraph clearly indicates that this district was under the power of the Chaulukyas of Anhilwad Patan since

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1. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), p. 16 ; plate VI, No. 14; SHAH U. P., *Sculptures from Shamalaji and Roda*, 1960, p. 128, fig. 62.
2. INAMDAR P. A., *ibid.*, p. 19.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 29 f.
4. For the inscription at Vadali, see *Puratatva*, Vol. III, pp. 280 ff.
5. INAMDAR P. A., *op. cit.*, p. 28.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 11 ; *Puratatva*, Vol. III, p. 280. Another inscription, (*Ibid.*, p. 280), is probably dated V. S. 1322 and it also belongs to the reign of Arjunadeva, (V. S. 1318 to 1331).

long, at least soon after the death of king Bhoja Paramāra of Malwa (1054-55 A. D.).

Another inscription of the Vaghela branch of the Chaulukya dynasty, found in this district, is preserved on the wall of the Ramji temple near the temple of Bhavanath Mahadev at Desan in the Bhiloda taluka.[1] It belongs to Karnadeva Vaghela, the last Hindu king of Anhilwad Patan. The eulogistic verses pertaining to the king and his predecessors contain some interesting information about the Vaghelas. At the outset, the inscription devotes four stanzas to the invocation of the Sun-god, the object being to record the erection of a temple dedicated to the Sun-god in the premises of *Bhrigu kunda* by Vaijalladeva in memory of his parents. He belonged to the Shandilya *gotra* and the family resided at Dholka. His mother belonged to the *Kashyapa gotra.* The deity of the temple was named Munjalasvamideva, obviously after the name of his father, Munjaldeva. The *praśasti* (eulogy) was composed by Sangrama, son of Hridevi, daughter of Munjaldeva. The inscription is dated the V. S. 1354 (1297 A. D.). This is the earliest known inscription of the reign of king Karnadeva. The record makes it quite clear that the Chaulukya kings of Anhilwad retained their hold over this district till the end of their power, which was uprooted by the forces of Sultan Ala-ud-din Khalji of Delhi, during 1299-1304 A. D.[2]

The excavation at Shamalaji has not yielded any remains of human habitation during this period. It seems that the town was deserted completely or partially towards the 10th century A. D., and again flourished by about the 14th century A. D.[3] The excavation at Devnimori also alludes to the same story.[4] A torso of Surya, found at Roda is, however, assigned to the 10th-11th century A. D.[5]

Some other monuments found in the district are also assigned to this period, *e. g.*, the Vaijanath temple at Raigadh, the Shiva temple at Kevan, the Dhareshwar temple near Davad, the old Hindu temples at Derol, the ruined temples from Khedbrahma to Posina and the Ankol Mata step-well at Davad.[6]

The Saraneshwar temple near Abhapur (Vijaynagar mahal), conserved by the State Archaeological Department, belongs to the Chaulukya period. The Sadevant-Savlinga temples near Attarsumba and the Vireshwara temple in its vicinity, too, deserve special mention in this context. In fact, a number

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1. *Buddhiprakash*, Vol. LVII, pp. 27 ff.; *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XXXIV, pp. 151 ff. and 155 ff.
2. MAJUMDAR A. K., *Chaulukyas of Gujarat*, (1956), pp. 186 ff.
3. MEHTA R. N. AND PATEL A. J., *Excavation at Shamalaji*, pp. 3, 8 and 58.
4. MEHTA R. N. AND CHOWDHARY S. N., *Excavation at Devnimori*, pp. 30 f.
5. SHAH U. P., *Sculptures from Shamalaji and Roda*, p. 136, fig. 78.
6. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, pp. 26, 27, 29, 35, 36 and 37.

of old monuments in the district await archaeological survey together with a study of their architectural form and critical estimate of the period of their construction.

TRADITIONAL ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY OF IDAR

Idar claims to be of hoary antiquity. Several interesting traditions have centred round it and passed as history.

In *Dvapara yuga*, Iladurga (Idar) was the residence of the demon Ilawan (Ilwal according to mythology) and his brother Vatapi. They devastated the region round about and killed many Brahmins and sages, practising penance. They were ultimately destroyed by the sage Agatsya.[1]

Then Veni-Vatsaraja ruled over this region in the year 2232 of *Kaliyuga*, *i. e.*, about 870 B. C. He is said to have been the son of a queen of Srinagar in the Ghadwal region in the Himalayas and to have been born on the Idar hills. He was said to be in possession of a magic gold figure, which gave him money for building the fortress and reservoirs at Idar. He married a *naga* princess and lived happily for some time at Idar. At her instance, he, however, left Idar for the netherworld and entered the cleft in the rock on the Taranga hills.[2]

These myths are followed by traditions which seem to contain history, but on scrutiny, they too prove to be of doubtful character.

When the last king Shiladitya of Valabhi died in war, his pregnant queen took refuge in a mountain cave on her way from her visit to the celebrated temple of Ambaji, where she gave birth to a son, whom she named Guha. With the help of the Bhils, the young prince became master of the forests and hills of Idar. His descendants ruled there for seven generations. But Nagaditya, the eighth king of the line, was killed by the Bhils and his infant son, Bapa Raval, was taken to Mewad, where he established his rule after twelve years (974 A. D.).[3]

Thus the bardic account associates the early kings of the Gohil (Guhil) dynasty with Idar and traces its origin to the posthumous son of king Shiladitya VII of Valabhi. But Pandit G. H Ojha of Rajasthan has proved the incongruity of this account and established that the Guhils of Mewad were not descendants of the Maitrakas of Valabhi.[4] The association of early Guhils with Idar also lacks in historical evidence.[5]

1-2 CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), pp. 399 f.; INAMDAR P. A , *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, pp 3 f.

3. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 400; INAMDAR P. A., *op. cit.*, pp. 4 f.

4. OJHA G. H., *Rajaputana Ka Itihasu*, (1938), Vol. I, pp. 383 ff. also *vide Classical Age*, p. 157.

5. MAJUMDAR R. C., (Ed.), *Classical Age*, (1954), p. 150.

In about 1000 A. D., a band of Parihar Rajputs from Mandovar in Marwad settled in Idar and ruled there for several generations. Idar was then subject to Chitod. Samarasimha Raval of Chitod, invited by his brother-in-law, Prithviraja Chauhan of Ajmer, to accompany him to the *swayamvara* of princess Samyukta, daughter of Jaychand Rathod of Kanauj, summoned his vassal Amarsimha to accompany him. He fought Shihabuddin Ghori in the battle of Tarain near Thaneshwar as an ally of Prithviraja Chauhan and laid down his life on the battle-field in 1193 A. D. His cavalry was also lost. When the news of his death reached Idar, many of the queens cast themselves from the steep cliff to the north of the town and killed themselves. The hill, therefore, became famous as *Rani-Zola* or the "Queens leap".[1]

The bardic account of the rule of the Parihar chiefs at Idar is not supported by history. The Chaulukya king Ajayadeva (1173-1176 A. D.) of Gujarat had conflict with the Guhil king Samantasimha of Mewad.[2] The Ahad plates of Bhimadeva II, dated V. S. 1263 (1207 A. D.) indicate that Mewad was under the power of the Chaulukya king of Gujarat by that time.[3] But Jaitrasimha of Mewad vanquished Sultan Altamash of Delhi between 1223 and 1230 A. D.[4] No king named Samarasimha flourished in the Guhil lineage of Mewad between Samantasimha (whose known dates are 1172 and 1180 A. D.) and Jaitrasimha (whose known dates range from 1214 to 1253 A. D.). The bardic account of Amarsimha, therefore, appears to be incongrous with the established facts of history.

Hathi Sod, a Bhil servant of the deceased chief, ruled over the territory, thereafter, and was succeeded by his son, Samalio Sod. By his tyranny, he aroused discontent among his subjects. He demanded the beautiful daughter of his Nagar minister in marriage, who approached Sonangji Rathod, the grandson of Jyachand Rathod of Kanauj. The latter had received the fief of Sametra (near Kadi) from the Chaulukya king of Anhilwada Patan and settled there. The two contrived a secret plan against the tyrannical chief Samalio was attacked surprisedly by the soldiers of Sonangji Rathod. The wounded chief made the royal mark on the brow of the victorious Rathod and breathed his last. Rao Sonangji came in possession of Idar in 1257 A. D.).[5] The chiefs of this line bore the title of Raos of Idar for twenty-six generations.[6] The traditional account of this lineage, which shifted to Pol

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1 Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 400; Inamdar P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, p. 5.

2. Ojha G. H., *Rajputana Ka Itihas*, (1938). p. 460.

3. Bhattacharya B. (Dr.), *Report of the 7th All India Oriental Conference*, Baroda, (1935), p. 643.

4. Ojha G. H., *op. cit.*, p. 466.

5. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), pp. 401, 412; Inamdar, *op. cit.*, p. 5.

6. *Ibid.*

(Vijaynagar) in the 18th century and ruled there till the merger of States, seems to be historically authentic to a large extent.

In the context of the facts stated above, it will appear that the entire history of the ancient period of the Sabarkantha district is reconstructed on the basis of the epigraphical and archaeological materials available at present. This is because no other source-material is available for resurrecting the history of the district.

STRUCTURAL TEMPLES IN THE DISTRICT

Bhetali (Bhiloda Taluka)—Nearly 6 kms. from Bhiloda, Bhetali has a Shiv *panchayatana* temple, which is very well preserved and comprises a central shrine with attendant small shrines installed in the four corners. The whole temple complex is placed on a 3 metre high platform (*jagati*), the back portion of which is near the foot of a hill.

The shrines on south-east, north-east, north-west and south-west corners are dedicated to Skanda, Ganesh, Parvati and Surya respectively. The images of Ganesh and Parvati are *in situ*, but those of Skanda and Surya are lost. There is an inscription, dated V. S. 1507 (1451 A. D.) on the pedestal of the image of Parvati. So the whole temple may, safely, be ascribed to 15th century A. D.

Math-Kasangadh Temple

The temple, here, is dedicated to Khandeshvari Māta. It has an elaborately carved ceiling under the dome of the *maṇḍapa* and carved images of goddess and other female figures on the outer walls.

The design, carved in the roof-panel of the adjoining Bhairav shrine consists of beautiful knots formed in coils of male and female reptiles entwined at places. The design is so much undercut, that it practically hangs like a pendant from the surface slab.

There is an inscription at the foot of a broken image of *Dvārapālā* in the compound, belonging to the 15th century, though the temple appears to be of an earlier period.

Nearly 2 kms. away on the opposite hill, there are remains of old *Kasangadh*, which must have been a large place. There is also Jain *Chintamani* temple at the foot of the hill.

Bhiloda

Situated on the river Hathmati (8 kms. from Bhavnath), it possesses a Jain temple built of sandstone and sacred to Chandraprabhuji Tirthankara.

It has a splendid tower (*kirti-stambhā*), nearly 15.2 metres in height structurally small but similar to the "Victory Tower" of Maharana Kumbha of Chitod (Rajasthan). The carvings on the outerside display many divine images and *dikpalas* and also depict incidents in the daily life of human beings.

The temple originally had five-storeys, two of which are broken. The temple seems to have been built in V. S. 1665 (1609 A. D.) as narrated in an inscription, set in its plinth.

The temple complex contains a series of *Devakulikas* around it. The *gudhamandapa* of the temple proper has two huge figures of *Kausugas* of black marble besides many other images. To its left, there is an old *Shiva* shrine.

Desan (Bhiloda Taluka)

Bhavnath Mahadev

Bhragunath or Bhavneshwar Mahadev temple, situated 29 kms. to the north-east of Himatnagar, at village Desan, is an old shrine. The shrine is associated with the famous Chyavan *rishi*. The legend says that the *kunda* nearby has miraculous powers for leprosy cure.

This temple was repaired by Raoji Jagatsinghji of Malpur in V. S. 1706 (1650 A. D.). It was rebuilt by Japi Maganlal Devashankar of Badoli in V. S. 1983 (1927 A. D.). It appears that it was renovated many times in the past. An inscription of V. S. 1354 (1298 A. D.) in the compound of the old Sun (now Ramji) temple mentions that this temple and *kunda* were built in the time of king Karna Vaghela. The existence of a large sized idol of the sacred bull of schist stone, nearly 1·5 metres long, in the compound, indicates that it belonged to an earlier period. Besides the above mentioned Sun temple, half-buried old shrines sacred to Shiva and other Gods lie in the compound. There is a small shrine to its right where Chyavan *rishi* performed penance. After the construction of the dam on the river Indrasi near Fatepur village, the *kund* and the surrounding area of the temple have been submerged under water. When the dam is full with water, the temple can be reached by a boat.

Shamalaji (Bhiloda Taluka)

The principal Vaishnavite temple of Shamalaji called Gadadharji or mace holder with its nucleus is a large imposing building and measures 32·5 × 22·8 × 19·8 metres in length, breadth and height and is built up of white sand stones and bricks. It is surrounded by a wall with an imposing gateway with figures of life size elephants on either side.

The present shrine of Shamalaji is possibly datable to c. 15th-16th cenutury A. D. The image of lord Vishnu in the sanctum shows a huge mace in the right and disc (*chakra*) in the left upper hands. A conch is held in the right lower hand. The lower left hand is raised up in the *abhaya mudra*. The peculiar cap, the hanging ends of the scarf tied to the *dhoti*, the general modelling of the figure with broad chest, etc., show that the sculpture is not later than 7th or 8th century A. D.[1]

The temple is raised on a large and spacious platform (*jagati*). On plan, the temple proper comprises the inner sanctum (*garbhagriha*), the circumambulatory (*pradakshinapatha*), the *antarāla* and the closed *maṇḍapa* (*gudhamaṇḍapa*) with balconies on either side. The walls show two offsets (*bhadra*) and the subordinate projection (*pratiratha*) over the original line (*karna rekha*) of the ground plan. They are highly decorated by several conventional mouldings. The *antarāla* connects the temple with the *maṇḍapa*, which is broader than two *garbhagrihas* including circumambulatory around it.

The circumambulatory is narrow and dark today but it must have received sufficient light from the niches (*gavaksas*) on *bhadra* projections.

The temple has a raised terrace (*mahapitha*) comprising horizontal mouldings like *bhitta jadyakumbha karna*, *antarpatrika*, *kevala*, *graspatti*, *gajathara* and *narathara* The upper surface of the *mahapitha* forms the surface level ground floor of this temple. The walls of the *garbhagriha* and *antarāla* are raised above the *mahapitha*. The walls are adorned with several horizontal mouldings of different shapes in super imposing style and are termed from bottom to top as *khuraka kumbhaka*, *kalasā*. *kevala*, *manchi*, *jangha*, *udgama* and *bharani* From here the mouldings of *manchi*, *jangha udgama* and *bharani* are repeated and the mouldings super imposing them are called *mahakevala* and *kutachadya*, the principal nave of the temple. Both the *jangha* mouldings contain ringed-pilastered niches in which images of divine beings inclusive of dancing figures are inscribed.

There was an open *sabhamandapa* in the past in the place of *mandapa* but it was later on transformed into *gudhamandapa* by constructing walls which were adorned with murals depicting religious scenes Walls of the *mandapa* also contain brick grills and offsets on plan, which comprise mouldings over *mahapitha* called the *rajasenaka*, *vedika*, (dwarf-wall), *asanapatta* and *kaksasana*. (sloping seats).

The *mandapa* is a three-storied structure. The central nave is open unto three storeys but the two upper floors recede in size and are smaller than the ground floor. The main pillars of the *mandapa*, with an offset in the centre carry over them the architraves and pillars of the second storey and the process is repeated in the third storey. The main central ceiling

1. SHAH U. P., *Sculptures from Shamalaji and Roda*, (1960).

rises over the third storey of the temple, which has been richly decorated from inside but has plain domical roof superimposed with *āmalasilā* and *kalasha* from outerside. This ornate *vitāna* is built on a trebeate principle of *kola-kachola* and *gajatalu* (*gavalu*), technically termed as *udita* type of *vitana*. The *rupa kantha* is decked with sixteen figures obviously indicating different *mudras* in dance and music. The ceiling surrounding the nave consists either of *samatala* (flat) or *udita* variety. The edges of the terraces are marked with *kapisirsa* (mirlons). The naves around the temple are adorned with animal figures of tigers, elephants, etc.

The principal *shikhara* rising over the *garbhagriha* has three *urusringas* (miniature-*shikharas*), and the one in front is decked with protruding *sukanasa* built over *antarāla*. There is corresponding *bhadra gavaksa* on each *bhadra* projection, wherein is seen a seated figure of a deity. Each *urusringa* is flanked on either side by subsidiary *sringas* and *tilakas*.

The sculptures which adorn the temple are of several categories depicting geometric and floral designs, animals and human and divine and semi-divine patterns. These are especially seen on the outer and inner walls of the *mandapa*, pillars and architraves and door-frame of *saptasakha* pattern, and the ceilings of the *mandapa*. They are displayed generally in relief but the largest among them are round sculptures. The large elephants on the entrance gate and pairs of elephants on principal *bhadra* projections are of this nature. Among geometric designs, the intersecting diamond and concentric circles are common. The stylized leaves, creepers and flowers are prominent among floral patterns. Animals like elephants, tigers, monkeys, horses, fishes, cocks, camels, etc., are carved either in independent groups or as vehicles to the deities. The activities of human beings are especially carved out in the *narathara* course of the *pitha*. The figures of *kinnars*, *apsaras*, *vidyadharas* and *maladharas* and such other semi-divine beings are also carved on the walls. Various mouldings of the *pitha*, *mandovara*, *vedikas*, ceilings, etc., display the architectural patterns.

But the figures of divine beings are of special attraction in this temple. These are *dikpalas* and *dikpalikas*. (regent deities and their consorts), and some of forms of Vishnu, Durga, Gauri, *Mahishasuramardini*, dancing Ganesh, etc. Pictorial episodes from *Ramayana*, *Shrimad Bhagvata*, *Mahabharat* and other *Puranas* pertaining to wars, hunting, wrestling, music, dancing and playing, etc., are also seen. A few amorous scenes are also carved. Thus this temple has well preserved ancient Indian heritage in its veritable form. On the entrance of the temple there is an inscription which records the repairs carried out in 1762 A. D. by the then Thakor of Tintoi, when the present idol of Shamalaji was also installed. Recently the house of an industrialist, Mafatlal Gagalbhai has spent Rs. 8 lakhs towards temple repairs and renovations. Yet its original architectural form and sculptural wealth have been fairly preserved.

To the south and west of Shamalaji on the other side of the Meshvo river are the temples of *Harischandrani-chori* and Ranchhodji, besides one or two mutilated old shrines along the foot and slopes of long line of hills.

The temple of *Harischandrani-chori* is a big temple of the Gurjara-Pratihara period, or more porbably of the Parmar rule in these parts.[1] It has a rectangular sanctum with a big *maṇḍapa* in front with balconies on either side and a porch in front. The whole structure was at one time enclosed in a courtyard, the walls of which are now in ruins, but the ornamental *toranā* (gateway) is still intact. Its pillars have ornamental bases with niches on all the four sides containing amorous postures besides mutilated figures of gods and goddesses. The niches are surmounted by miniature *shikharas*, which the shafts of the pillars show the *purna-ghata* motif. The *toranā* contains figures of divine musicians and is decorated with two semi-circular arches with elongated ends emanating from *makarā* (crocodile) heads. The various carvings on the *toranā* and the figures in the niches and spires over them, suggest that they belong to c. 1000 A. D., which date is also assignable to the temple.

On back wall of the sanctum are carved figures of Ganesh, Chamunda and other forms of Durga, which indicate that the shrine was dedicated to some form of Durga.

The Ranchhodji temple to the left of *Harischandrani-chori* is really an old *Shiva* temple with *Shiva lingas* still *in situ*. From the compound of this temple, statue of a beautiful old bull, has been removed to the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay. The bull, obviously dates from c. 6th century A. D., and is one of the best animal sculptures of the Gupta age. Behind the Ranchhodji's temple, there are two images of Lord Shiva on the wall. One idol, which is in *nrityā-mudrā* holds a trident in one hand, (human) head in another, *khappar* (bowl) in the third near the chest and his fourth hand appears to be engaged in sprinkling something from the bowl. Another mutilated sculpture of Shiva depicts peculiar facial expression after the killing of the demon, which shows neither wrath nor pleasure, yet indicates victor's satisfaction. The curve from waist to matted hair going through the chest also appears artistically pleasing. Opposite the Shamalaji shrine is the *khak-chowk* area, where a temple of *Trilokinath* is situated. An artistic idol of standing Shiva and holding his famous trident is revered and worshipped. The face of the deity is slightly turned towards the right in three-quarter's profile. Both these sculptures seem to have been figures on the door-jumb of an old Shaivite shrine and are made of schist stone.

Another Shiva sculpture almost akin to the above, with the face turned upwards on the left was discovered from the adjacent small shrine and is now preserved in the Prince of Wales Museum at Bombay.

1 cf., *Sīyaka's grant from Harsol*, E. I., IXI, p. 236.

A small Shiva shrine (*Kashivishveshwara* temple) with an *Ekamukha Shiva-linga*, in the sanctum, which is still in worship is located behind the Government rest-house. The *linga* made of schist stone dates from c. 7th century A. D. The idol has a broad fore-head and three eyes.

To the north-east of *Khak-chowk*, there is an old Sun temple with a broad door-frame and the shrine compares favourably with the Roda group of temples. Though the niches on the back wall of the sanctum are now empty, they are highly ornate with *chaityā* window ornament of the Roda type. The temple is rectangular, has an *antarāla*, a *maṇḍapa* with balconies on two sides, and a porch. There is also a circumambulatory which seems to have been a later addition The old *shikhāra* has been lost, and the temple was repaired at least more than once. A pillar of the *antarāla* bears a small inscription, recording some gift in Vikram Samvat 1507 (1451 A. D.). The temple is white-washed. Another inscription on a beam of the *antarāla* has also been discovered lately, but its contents are not yet deciphered.

To the south and east, not very far from Shamalaji, is the river Meshvo and the old holy spot *Nagā-dhārā* and the *Vishrāmaghātā*, on the top of which there is an old Vishnu shrine, repaired on a number of occasions. A small cell housing a phalic image of Shiva in it is also discovered near by. In a niche, just behind the *lingā* is placed a rare but beautiful sculpture of Vishnu locally famous as *kalasi-chhokarani-ma* (mother of number of small children), with small human figures emanating from the head and shoulders of Vishnu seated in the centre. Such an unusual sculpture has never been unearthed anywhere in India. Some call it as '*Anant-Brahmā*' also. It is assignable to the 6th century A. D.

Devnimori (Bhiloda Taluka)

In the recent excavations at village Devnimori, which is now submerged in the lake formed by the Meshwo Dam the massive structures of the Buddhist *stupa* and *viharas* have been discovered. These are built of well burnt mud bricks. The *stupa*, in a ruinous condition, stood nearly 11 metres from the ground level and was divided into the following four main parts. (1) the deep foundation of broad base in the form of a square platform (25·8 × 25·8 metres), with a height of 2·4 metres. This served the purpose of first circumambulatory, (2) the broad lower base was superimposed with a platform of lesser dimension but was decked with architectural mouldings, and walls interspersed by niches, showing images of the seated Buddha, (3) similar second superimposed platform of still lesser dimension also containing the niched figures of Buddha in *dhyānā mudrā* and (4) the elongated hemispherical drum superimposed over the second platform.

Thus architecturally the *stupa* was a massive solid structure with two square tiers fretted with decorated friezes on all sides. Its platforms, serving

the purpose of *pradakshinapatha*, were studded with *Buddha* impages under typical *chaityā* arched moulding having pilasters with Indo-corinthian capital and decorated with medallious and geometric and floral motifs.

In plan, the principal brick *viharā* (monastery) was a structure with cells on all four sides opening towards the central courtyard. It has a platform of about a metre high with moulded bands. One of the rooms was treated as a shrine-room.[1]

Shobhareda (Bhiloda Taluka)

There are two temples dedicated to *Shiva* called Shobheshvara Mahadev and Shakti called Vagheshvari Mātā, both facing each other. The Shiva temple is comparatively good condition as the *garbhagriha*, *maṇḍapa* and *shikhara* are in good condition but the dome over the *maṇḍapa* is destroyed. The temple has beautiful pillars, *kakshasana*, *vedikas*, etc., which contain several beautiful sculptures.

Kadoli (Himatnagar Taluka)

To the south-west of Davad is a shrine of Saptanath Mahadev situated on the bank of the Sabarmati river, and is also an old place of pilgrimage, as seven sages including Agastya are believed to have stayed here for sometime. Seven small *lingas*, all in a row in an underground chamber, are shown as the places where these sages offered their daily prayers. There is a *kunda* opposite the shrine on the outerside of which some old images are found, while some are lying near the shrine.

There is the Dhareshvara Mahadev temple, which though recently brought down and rebuilt, seems to belong to 12th century A. D.

Kevan (Himatnagar Taluka)

At Kevan, about 8 kms. from Raigadh, there is an old Shiva temple, belonging to the 12th century A. D. It is a *panchayātana* type of temple rested on a stone platform on the top of a hillock.

Roda (Himatnagar Taluka)

A group of seven temples at Roda with a big rectangular *kunda*, in addition to that of '*Ladachi Ma*'. could be assigned to the pre-Chaulukyan style from the architectural style of pillars, door-frames, wall-mouldings and decorative motifs of the 7th century. The transitional stage of the

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1. The site is now merged into the Shvama Sarovara, but its contents are shifted to the Archaeological Department of M. S. University, Baroda.

spire is also significant. Mortar seems to have been used in the temples and the blocks of lower part are held together by the weight of the super-structures.

Two of these temples and the *kunda* are in ruins at present and two images of Ganesh and Vishnu are in existence, other two images of Shiva and the Sun God are not seen. The oldest of these temples is unique and is popularly known as the temple of *Pashu-Pakshi*, because it contains a plaque showing carved figures of animals and birds in the place of deity. These motifs are inscribed on its walls too.

All except the seventh temple are small structures with square or rectangular sanctum (*garbhagriha*) and a small porch (*shringara chowki*), the front portion of some of which is in ruins. Most of them have one or two offsets (*bhadra* and *pratirathā*), which are plain externally. Super-structures over *maṇḍapas* and porches, in some cases, are cylindrical in shape with a tringular arch on each end. The spires (*shikhar*) are curvilinear in nature with deeply cut horizontal layers adorned with a series of carvings in the shape of *chaityā* window ornament at intervals.

The bases of these temples are adorned with a heavy corniced moulding. However, the striking feature in these temples is their door-frames which are highly ornate and decked with floral patterns, arabesques and panels of divine and semi-divine beings. The door-frame of the sixth temple contains a panel of *Navagrahas* over its lintel and on the door-jambs the figures of *Ganga* and *Yamuna* are installed as *dwarpalikas*.

However, the most ornate door-frame is that of the third temple, the threshold of which contains a conventional creeper flanked by bird on either side. It is of *panchsakhā* variety, the central *rupastambha* having figures of Shiva, Shiva-Parvati, *Ardhānārishwarā* to the left, and Vishnu, and Lakshmi-Narayan to its right. The figures of Shaivite *dvarapālās* and *nagās* are also carved on the frames. The *sobhapatta* over lintel is decorated with the images of Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Ganesh, etc.

The *Jangha* niches of *mandovaras* are beautified by the images of Shiva, Uma-Maheshvara and Ganesh in temple-I, Varaha and Nrisimha in temple-V; Surya, Parvati performing *panchagni tapā*, and Ganesh in temple-VI, and Shiva and Parvati on lion in the act of wearing an anklet and Ganesh.

But the biggest among these shrines is the seventh temple which has a cell, a *maṇḍapa* and a porch in front. A figure of *Lakulisa* (a form of Shiva) in the centre with those of Brahma, Kubera, Shiva, Ganesh and Vishnu are found on the top of the door-frame.

Idar (Idar Taluka)

A short and flat-roofed building known as the *Ranmala chowki* on the Idar hill seems to be an unfinished temple at Idar. It is dedicated to God Shiva and rests on a platform of 12·2 × 5·5 metres. It has a *garbhagriha, antarāla*, a *pradaksinapatha* (circumambulatory) and a *maṇḍapa*. The mouldings like *jadyakumbha, kani, kumbha, kalasa*, etc., of the *pītha* though not decked with ornamental motifs or figures are well proportioned and neat. The balconies of the circumambulatory are highly ornate and the opening is covered with stone-grill divided into several sections depicting numerous geometrical designs. The *vedikas* are decorated with figures of musicians and dancers and mythical episodes. The *jangha* moulding of the *mandovara* contains nearly a metre high figures of divine beings noteworthy being the sculptures of *Mahishasurmardini* and the dancing Ganesh. The work of stone-grills and style of sculptures place the temple around 13th century A. D.

At the foot of the fort the idol of Khokhanatha Mahadev, supposed to be more than 400 years old, is installed.

The temple of Dhaneshwar Mahadev is located to the south-east of the town in a cave which is a natural rock-cut cavery. The idol of Mankaleshwar is also found here elsewhere in the cave.

Limbhoi (Idar Taluka)

A temple of Kalnath Mahadev also called Kanvanath Mahadev is located here. It has been repaired several times, but some of the old temple portion is still preserved. The stone-grills on both sides of the *garbhagriha* and on the balconies of the *maṇḍapas* are interesting as they depict several attitudes of animals besides the floral and geometric patterns.

The temple of *Navagraha* at Limbhoi is of recent origin.

Vaddli (Idar Taluka)

An inscription of V. S. 1264 (1208 A. D.) in the Vaidyanath temple about the rebuilding of its *maṇḍapa*, another of V. S. 1329 (1273 A. D.) on a stone-pillar in the compound belonging to the time of king Arjunadeva Vaghela, about the grant of some land or some special privilege to the temple and a third in the Shantinath temple, dated V. S. 1275 (1219 A. D.) at the foot of an idol, bear ample testimony to the antiquity of the place. The Vaidyanath temple is completely plastered with stucco. But the beautiful sculptures on the *pītha* and *mandovara* exhibit its original form. The spire is of monospired (*Ekandi*) type. In the vicinity there is another temple which originally belonged to an earlier date and is popularly

known as the Balarama temple, which enshrines the image of Balarama in the back niche of the *mandovara*. On the west niche, there is a figure of *navagraha*. The wall of a room nearby contains a figure or Nrisimbha (lion headed Vishnu), which probably belongs to the temple. All these *Vaishnavite* sculptures indicate that the temple was originally dedicated to Vishnu.

There is yet another temple dedicated to Shiva with two ornate pillars in *ghatapallava* motif and the sculptures of *vedika* and ceiling suggest that this temple must have been constructed earlier than the *Vaidyanath* temple. The superstructure over the *garbhagriha* though covered with a thick plaster, exhibits over it a *jalaka* pattern which also supports the above view.

The Ruparana's temple contains many components of antiquity such as the *pītha* mouldings, *vedikas*, ceilings, the foliage pattern of pillars, the sculptures on *jangha* moulding of the *mandovara*, and the carving on *sanivarna*, etc.

The figures of *Matrikās* in the step-well to the east of the village and mounds of several destroyed temples are the relics of the past glory of this place. These are enshrined in the temples of Shantinath Jain temple and the Chamunda *Mātā*.

Vadiavir (Idar Taluka)

About 12 kms. north-east of Idar, Vadiavir contains a large ruined temple of Shiva probably built in the time of Rao Bhan, who ruled over Idar in 15th century A. D. It has since been repaired. As Shiva temple was in ruins, prominence was given to a small shrine of *Vir* nearby, which was revered by the people.

Derol (Khedbrahma Taluka)

Derol, 13 kms. east of Khedbrahma, possesses several old temples. A triple shrine belonging to the 12th century A. D. of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh, with the central shrine dedicated to Shiva is in existence. A Vishnu *panchayatana* temple probably belonging to the 16th century is also found nearby. The *kirti-toranā* in front of this temple is damaged towards the top. One more Shiva temple is situated near the triple shrine.

The common *mandapa* of the triple shrine has a frontal porch and a detached *nandi mandapa*, with some portions surviving. There is an image of *nandi* on its plinth. Ruins of *toranā* in front are also visible.

The *mandovara* is highly decked with beautiful sculptures, of which the amorous figures are noteworthy. The *mandapa* covered with stone-grills, contains depiction of several sculptures of Ganesh, *kaunch* bird in flying gesture, a monkey playing with a child, etc.

Khedbrahma (Khedbrahma Taluka)

This holy place derives its sanctity from the shrine of Brahma, one of the chief gods of Hindu trinity. It is a rare shrine and along with Pushkarji in Rajasthan, these are the twin places in the whole of India where Brahmaji's shrines are located. The famous temple of Amba Mataji, believed to be the original seat of *Arasur* Ambaji in Banaskantha district, is also found here.

The site abounds in the ruined mounds of temples on the outskirts of the village and on the opposite bank of the river Harnav and are dedicated to Shiva, Shakti and Surya. An inscription in the *Aditi* step-well justifies that as late as 13th century A. D., the place was in a prosperous condition. Besides the step-well, opposite Brahmaji temple, the *Bhrigu Ashram* and the nearby temples of Kselramba and Pankhanatha Mahadev are those of Koteshwar Mahadev, Amba Mātā, Hatkeshwar Mahadev and some Jain temples, which appear to be relics of the past.

The temple of Brahmaji rests on a high platform and is fairly preserved with many features of architectural interest. It belongs to the 12th century A. D. from its style of construction according to Dr. Henry Cousins. The spire, dome and front appear to have been destroyed and later on rebuilt in bricks and mortar. Fortunately the lower part of the main shrine has remained intact and it is full of good carving including the image of Brahma in the niches on the three sides. The inner part of the temple is quite simple. The idol of Brahma is nearly 1·5 metres in height. His two consorts are installed towards the right and left. The original stone image of Brahmaji was probably mutilated by Muslim iconoclasts and was plastered over with white cement afterwards to make up for the broken parts. Half-way between Khedbrahma and the *ashram*, there is an old temple of *Pankhnath* Mahadev on the river Harnav. Its main shrine seems to have escaped the ravages of the invaders but was restored several times. It has a beautiful dancing figure of Shiva in one of the niches on the *mandovara*.

The Amba Mātā temple is situated to the north of the village. The present shrine has been assigned to the 17th century A. D. Carved blocks of granite now serve as steps in the temple compound and outside. Images of goddesses Brahmi and Kali were found during the construction of a rest-house near the temple reservoir.

Posina (Khedbrahma Taluka)

Of the four Jain temples here, three are dedicated to Shantinath, Parsvanath and Neminath and are grouped together in an enclosed wall. There is an inscription, dated V. S. 1281 (1225 A. D.) on the pedestal of

the image of Shantinath. The image of Parsvanath, also bears an inscription, dated V. S. 1477 (1421 A.D.), on the pedestal. The fourth temple dedicated to Mahavir contains some beautiful sculptures. One of these designated a Jain goddess *Ambikā* is especially noteworthy. This sculpture reminds one of similar sculptures in the ceilings of *Vimalavasahi* and *Lunavasahi* at Delwada (Mount Abu).

The restorations of these temples at a later period have completely changed their original form, but the few sculptures that remain reveal their originality.

Posina also contains one beautiful shrine famous as the Nilkantha Mahadev. The shrine from *pitha* to *mandovara* contains beautiful sculptures and mouldings. The superstructures of the *garbhagriha, mandapa* and porch were restored subsequently. The shrine door-way is of the *panchasakha* type. From the carvings of the mouldings and sculptures, the temple can be assigned to 15th century A. D.

Some more temples of this region are also interesting. Chief among these are an old Shiva temple at Agia in Khedbrahma taluka (repaired in V. S. 1534 or 1478 A. D.), temples of Nilkanth Mahadev at Ambaliara, Hendi Mata and Narayaneshwar at Badoli, Dhareshwar temple at Bayad, Chitra-Vichitreshwar Mahadev temple at Delwada, Galateshwar Mahadev temple near Prantij, Mudhaneshwar. Vaijnath Mahadev temple and ruins of Somnath Mahadev temple at Raigadh, Mokheshwar Mahadev temple at Sudasana, Kedareshwar Mahadev temple at Telnel and Shoolapanishwar Mahadev temple at Ubharana.

Khedawada (Himatnagar Taluka)

At Khedawada there is a *pānchayatānā* temple, but the main original temple here seems extinct. A new temple has, therefore, been erected, though the new design disagrees with the beautiful corner shrines of the original temple. The platform over which these shrines are constructed is almost simple. The original corner shrines identical on plan, elevation and size, are highly ornate. Each contains on *kumbha* which is the lowermost member of the *pitha* (basement), at vertical faces of *karna* (*i. e.*, original line of ground plan) and *pratiratha* (an offset between *karna* and *bhadra*, the principal offset on plan) a decorative motif known as *ardharatna* (half-diamond) and half-blown lotus on the *bhadra* face. The *jangha* niches of the *mandovara* (panelled-faced-wall) of small shrines have figures of different deities like Surya, Bhairava, Indra, Vishnu, Nateshwara, *Gajasur-samhara* idol of Shiva, and Parvati, Skanda, etc. The spires of these shrines are highly ornate with deep-cut *jalaka* pattern and are assigned to c. 11th century A. D. While reconstructing the main temple, some of the original sculptures of Brahma, Shiva and panel of *navagraha*, etc., are preserved and installed in the temple.

The Old Temples in Polo (Vijaynagar Taluka)

The forest tract lying to the north-east of Idar contains a number of old temples, mostly in ruins at present, and represents the site of an old deserted habitation of the former Vijaynagar State which flourished in the post-Chaulukyan period. The temples are now scattered here and there in the forest tract and have decayed on account of the subsequent outgrowth of the vegetation. These temples represent almost a uniform style of architecture prevalent in the post-Chaulukyan period. Those outstanding are mentioned below :

Sarnesvar—The Shiva temple at Abhapur is in a dilapidated condition and consists of a *garbhagriha*, an *antarāla*, a circumambulatory, a *gudhamaṇḍapa* flanked by porches on either side and a *sabhamaṇḍapa*. In elevation, it is a three storied building. There is a wide *yagnakund* with a beautifully carved *vedi* in the front. The *pītha*, *mandovara*, and *vedikas*, are highly carved in the post-Chaulukyan style. The pillars are also noteworthy because the style of some of them differ from the Chaulukyan style. From bottom to top they are round in shape with ringlets at intervals on the shafts of the pillars, which are otherwise plain. The basis and capitals are mostly carved with the design of inverted lotus-petals. Similar pillars are found in the Lakhena temple. The super-structures over the shrine, *maṇḍapas* and porches are extinct.

In the compound, there stands a memorial stone bearing an inscription, dated V. S. 1554 and S. S. 1420 recording the name of Rav Bhana as the king of Idar. The temple is recently restored and conserved by the State Department of Archaeology.

About two kms. north-west of Abhapur, in the interior of the forest across the river Harnav, are situated Lakhena temples, now almost in ruins. The main Jain temple belonging to *digambar* sect, is believed to have been constructed in 1500 A. D It is a large (150′ × 70′ approximately) stone structure, which has mostly turned completely black owing to constant exposure to the Sun and shower. Spaciousness, screen panels and beautiful carvings on the walls and *sikhara* render the temple magnificent.

The double storied Lakhena temple consists of a *garbhagriha*, an *antarāla*, a *gudhamaṇḍapa*, a *trikamaṇḍapa*, a *sabhamaṇḍapa*, porches and balconies. Both the *maṇḍapas* are carved with perforated stone lattice. The highly carved pillars resemble those in the Jain temples at Mount Abu. The ceiling of the *antarāla* is a beautiful piece of sculpture.

The temple seems enclosed by a fortification, which contained a pillared corridor and a series of cells (Devakulikas), once enshrining images of different *tirthankars*. It represents a typical *Bavana Jinalaya*, sacred to Jains.

Just near this temple, there are three more small ones dedicated to Hindu divinities-Shiva, Lakshmi-Narayana and Shakti. The group also includes a pair of small temples locally famous as those of *Sasu Vahu,* which are almost in dilapidated condition. Not far from the Lakhena temple, there is the ruined but magnificent Sun temple. The image of the deity seems to have been stolen.

Astika Panchayatana Kanvanath Mahadev

Situated near the *Astika Ashram* near Chorivad, is a complex of five temples—one principal surrounded by four small ones, one at each corner. The principal temple has a *garbhagriha,* a *maṇḍapa* and a porch, all in ruined condition. The extant *mandovara* is inscribed with several noteworthy sculptures, among whom Shiva in *tandavā* pose and the *Varaha* stand out prominent because they are well preserved. Some of the pillars and *kaksasanas* are preserved in the *maṇḍapa* but its superstructure appears to have been lost. Its *shikhara* also is extinct. The small shrines in the vicinity too are mutilated.

The condition of *Kirtitorana* in front of the temple is good, though some of its components, especially the arches below and above the lintels, are extinct. The bases of the shafts and capitals of the pillars are highly carved. Similarly the lintel also is adorned with several niches of divine figures. This *toranā* is among the few *toranās* available in Gujarat.

There is also a small ruined temple nearby dedicated to Surya.

Step-wells

Numerous large and beautiful step-wells are one of the special features of this region. A moderate sized village here possesses two to three or sometimes even more step-wells, built of sandstone or bricks. They are invariably decorated with beautiful figures of Matrikā, Ganesh, Sheshashayi Vishnu and scenes of usual life of the people.

The oldest and the most ornate step-well is that of *Ankol Mātā* at Davad and is said to have been built in the 11th century A. D. Its component horizontal parts are a well (*kostha*), a stair-case (*nalo*) and *kuta* (*i. e.,* storied *maṇḍapas*). It was originally a three storied structure, but only the central structure with its *maṇḍapa* seems extant. Its small pillars are highly ornate and the *vedika* is marked with usual conventionalized pattern interspaced with figures of divine beings. The entrance of the *maṇḍapa* is in the form of an ornate door-frame. The space between this and that of the pillars is filled with a stone-grill.

The step-well at Khedbrahma opposite Brahmaji's temple, probably built in the 14th century A. D. is quite large and well-built. The supports

of the superstructure and the row of miniature shrines in the well indicate that it must have once housed the idols of gods and goddesses, which are now mostly extinct or missing. A number of step-wells were built during the period of from 14th to 17th century A. D. Chief among these are the step-wells at Idar (*Asha Dabhi* and *Chaturbhuji*), Bhanpur, Gorol, Tintoi, Raigadh, Shamalaji, Limbhoi, Himatnagar (*Kaji Vav*), Bhiloda (*Retoda vav*), etc. The Kaji's vav, at Himatnagar contains inscriptions on the side walls, one in *Arabic* and the other in *Devanagari* script bearing the dates 820 H. (1417 A. D.) and V. S. 1578 (1522 A. D.) respectively. The second inscription records that the step-well was built in 1522 A. D. by Shamsher-ul-Mulk, who is said to be one of the sons of Sultan Ahmedshah I.

Kundas (Reservoirs)

The prominent reservoirs are found at Roda, Idar, Choriwad, Galoda, Mudeti, Pratapgadh (Sabli) and Himatnagar. The *kunda* at Sabli has an inscription dated V. S. 1582 (1526 A. D.). But the *Navalakha kunda* at Himatnagar is one of the most interesting objects. It is an oblong hollow pit about 30 metres broad and 150 metres long. At the foot of the flight of steps, which forms one of the sides of the pit, there is a stone basin, filled with water from a perennial spring and with stone cloisters round its three sides. At the back of the west cloister is a women's gallery hidden from light and covered by perforated stone screens. On the southern side is a building with a stone canopy intended for the king or chief man of the place, who, during the heat of the day, enjoyed the company of women in this cool retreat. The cloister on the north has disappeared, but the others, in fair preservation, are fine specimens of architecture. Tradition ascribes the work to Taj-ul-Mulk, other son of Sultan Ahmedshah. According to another account, it is said to have been constructed during the reign of Ahmedshah as a bathing place for Mohina Rani, who, it is said, used to visit it daily by an underground passage from the Bhadra palace at Ahmednagar.

Tanks

Idar is surrounded by beautiful natural and artificial lakes, and are known as *Rani Talav*, *Ranmalsar*, *Patasar* and *Fatah Talav*. The *Harsaleshwar* lake at Davad is said to have been built by king Siddhraja's queen Hansaldevi and has stone-steps on three sides reaching deep into the water. The tanks at Vadali (*Lakhera and Samlesar*) and Shamalaji (*Karambuj*) are adorned with stone-embankments and steps leading to the water surface.

Forts

Some towns of medieval period are found with strong fortifications built either of stones or bricks. Behind the old palace on the south-west face of the range of hills, which join Aravalli mountains, rises the Idargadh,

so steep, rocky and well fortified that it has caused a legendry saying : 'to conquer Idargadh is a well-nigh impossible feat'. The gaps in the natural crest of rocks are filled and strengthend with strong ramparts of heavy stone rubbles.

The white sandstone and cement walls of the original fort at Himatnagar (Ahmednagar), though much damaged in parts, still surround the town. The gateways, especially the Prantij or Ahmedabad gate, are handsome specimens of Mohammedan architecture. The fortifications show that the builders trusted that artillery could never be brought against the fort. The bastions are hollow, the inside occupied by pillared rooms in two storeys which take up so much space that walls of the bastions are composed of single stone layer.

The citadel or the inner fort of Ahmadnagar known as the Bhadra contains some very fine buildings though in ruins, the chief being known as Mohina Rani's palace. The windows of these buildings are carved in stone with the delicacy of lace. In 1858, the principal building collapsed. Outside, at some distance from the Bhadra and, opening directly on the river Hathmati, is the Idar gate. Close to it is a small mosque in perfect condition. Its windows are ornamented from outside with a carved stone canopy, while the frame is filled with carved stone-grill representing trees with rich foliage, through the interstices of which, tempered light streams into the buildings. This mosque is said to have been built by Nasar-ul-Mulk, the eldest son of Sultan Ahmad Shah I, of Ahmedabad.

Juma Masjid at Himatnagar is the next relic of the Mohammedan period. Its inscription seems to have been removed and lost, but the inscription in the *kaji-vav*, records that it was built in 1522 A. D. in the time of Muzaffar Shah II by Mubariz-ul-Mulk, governor of Idar. The *kunda* adjoining it also seems to have been built at the same time.

The village Punadra possesses an old fort which is said to have been built by Sultan Muhmud Begada, (1458-1511 A. D.).

Halfway between Haldarvas and the village Barmuara, is the Bamnoli Kot, a ruined fort on the right bank of the river Vatrak, which is also said to have been built by Muhmud Begada.

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD (1298 TO 1812 A. D.)

Of all the districts of Gujarat, Idar and other States have bequeathed rich heritage of history. One is no doubt struck by this long and continuous historical tradition which has flourished in this district. One probable reason is that the major portion of the territory of the present Sabarkantha district was occupied by the State of Idar which had continuous and unbroken

historical record. The history of the Idar State given in the Chapter would illustrate this point.

The medieval period in the district, it may be pointed out, covers period from 1298 A. D. to 1812 A. D. During this period, the district witnessed many political upheavals. In 1298 A. D. commenced the Turkish invasion over Gujarat. The real consolidation of the Muslim rule in the district, however, began in the middle of the 15th century during the reign of Sultan Ahmed Shah. After the supremacy of the Ahmedabad kings was established (1412 A. D.), many Rajputs[1] particularly the Chiefs of Ghodasar, Ilol, Likhi and Gabat in reward for service and Punadra, Khadal, Dabha, Ramas off shoot of the house of Mandava because they agreed to embrace Islam, received grant of lands. All these States are now merged in the Sabarkantha district.

In the early period the district was affected by the Turkish invasions. It also experienced absolutism and bureaucracy of the Tughuluk. It had very hard time under the Sultans of Gujarat also. Prior to Sultan's rule the impact of Muzaffar Khan's rule, who was Governor of Gujarat, was felt in the district.

So far as the period of the Sultanate of Gujarat is concerned, the campaigns of Ahmed Shah stand out prominently. The disintegration of the Mughal power, the Mulkgiri expeditions and oppressions of the people by the Maratha in the district hastened the end of the Medieval period and brought Col. Ballantyne on the political scene.

THE MUSLIM PERIOD

The Islamic influences were at work in Gujarat even before the establishment of the Sultanate. By the 10th century communities of Arab merchants had settled down along the coastal regions of Gujarat.[2] As the district was away from the coastal districts, it was not affected by these Islamic influences. It, however, was affected by the conquest of Gujarat by Ulugh Khan, the Commander of Ala-u'd-din Khalji, in 1298 A. D. The impact of the invasion was so profound that people were completely surprised. This is borne out from the historical facts set out below.

BEGINNING OF THE TURKISH RULE IN GUJARAT AND THE DISTRICT

The beginning of the Turkish rule in Gujarat commences with Ala-u'd-din's campaign. Ala-u'd-din commissioned two of his most trusted lieutenants to undertake the campaigns. The two armies of the generals (Ulugh Khan and Nusrat Khan) jointly after entering the Mewad proceeded

1. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *The Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. 1, Rajkot, (1922), pp. 38-39.
2. TRIVEDI S. A., *Some Aspects of the Medieval Gujarat*, New Delhi, (1968), p. 9.

towards Gujarat. They avoided any serious conflict with Rana Samar Singh of Chittor. They successfully passed through the dangerous and hilly tract between Mewad and Gujarat. The Turkish army entered the plains and encircled the fort of Modasa which was an important town in the area.

The Rajput defenders of Modasa were completely taken by surprise and allowed themselves to be besieged. Padmanabha the author of *Kanhad-de Prabandh* writes that panic and chaos heralded the advent of invading army and the fort was surrounded after a sharp battle, though within a short time only. With this serious impediment removed the Turkish army was now able to enter the territory of Gujarat. Thus from this narration, it appears that Modasa was the first Gujarat fort to be besieged by Turks.[1] The Turkish invasion was an important political event. The Turks succeeded in cutting down tall poppies among the Rajputs but the lower echelons of the Rajput power remained unaffected.

Sultan Ala-u'd-din Khalji in the third year after the conquest of Gujarat, appointed Malik Sanjar, who had the title of Alp Khan as Governor of Gujarat.

The last phase of reign of Ala-u'd-din marked the end of the long and extremely successful administration of Alp Khan In fact, Alp Khan may be called the founder of the Muslim rule in Gujarat. The district again assumes importance during the reign of Zafar Khan II as Governor in Gujarat (Muzaffar Khan). After signal victory over the Farhat-ul-Mulk at Kambhoi in north Gujarat on the 4th January 1392 A. D., the victorious Muzaffar Khan began his march towards Patan. Muzaffar Khan's sway over Gujarat began first as Governor and later as Sultan, which lasted for over 18 years (1392-1410 A D.). During his rule, the Rajputs particularly the State of Idar which is now merged in Sabarkantha district became a potent threat. It was a political necessity for Zafar Khan (Muzaffar Khan) to subdue them. In 1394-95 A. D., he marched towards, Idar, an important Rajput principality in the north-east of Gujarat. Idar was invaded thrice by him, first in 1393-94 A. D., again in 1394-95 A. D., and finally in 1400-01 A. D. Before dealing with his invasions against Idar, it would be pertinent to give a brief sketch of Rao Ranmal of Idar who was his contemporary. Rao Ranmal, the first great ruler of the Rathor dynasty of Idar, reigned according to Hindu accounts, for a long period of 58 years, *i. e.*, from 1345 A. D. to 1403 A. D. Tradition has it that he was attended by 12 valiant Sardars, and who were also called Ranmals, and who were constantly on duty at the fort of Idar. The small structure which stands on the crest of one of the two highest peaks of Idargadh is well known as Ranmal's *Choki* or Guard room There is little doubt, however, that this was originally an elegant little Jain temple and of great antiquity which was perhaps used

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1. MISRA S. C., *The Rise of Muslim Power in Gujarat*, Bombay, (1963), p. 62.

for military purposes by the Rajput rulers of Idar in the 14th and subsequent centuries. The latter situated to the south-east of Idar city, and still known as Ranmaleshwar, is said to have been constructed by this ruler. Rao Ranmal owned according to bardic story, a valuable horse which was named Navlakho, *i. e.*, worth nine lakhs of rupees and which was able to cover 300 miles in one night. This Rao Ranmal had to encounter Muslim invasion.

The sequence of invasions may now be examined. It may be noted that before this attack, it does not appear that Idar had in any way been subject to the Muslim Governors of Patan. No tribute was ever paid to the alien ruler, as Shriddhar, the author of *Ranmal-Chhanda*, declares.[1] At this time Rao Ranmal was a valiant ruler who is said to have conquered the whole of Bagad, (Vagad) the mountainous area on the frontier of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Malwa. He, therefore, posed a threat to the authority of Zafar Khan in the plains of Gujarat.[2]

The first attack was launched immediately after Zafar Khan's consolidation of his authority, in the plains of Gujarat. Usual course was adopted. Idar was surrounded, the countryside was ravaged, temples were destroyed and demolished and the Rajputs enslaved. The Rao was compelled to seek refuge in the upper citadel, where he was so straitened for supplies that household animals had to be used for food. Ultimately, therefore, he had to supplicate and request the invader for relief ; he sent his son to Zafar Khan assuring him of his future fidelity and asking forgiveness for his past deeds. Zafar Khan too deemed it politic not to press the Rajput chieftain to the breaking point and appeased by a large present and promised of future tribute, raised the siege and returned to Patan.[3]

The relief granted was, however, only temporary. The main purpose had been to get a formal acknowledgement of superiority even though nominal. The greater task of the elimination of danger, however, persisted, for until the period the proud Rajput chief had been broken or liquidated, he remained a potential threat. In 1398-99 A. D. Zafar Khan returned to complete his task.

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1. An account of the second siege of Idar is provided by the 15th century *Kavya* written by a court-poet Shriddhar eulogising the Rao Ranmal of Idar. The author has given a vivid picture of the host which accompanied Zafar Khan, though of course, his account is not free from the inevitable concomitants of court-poetry. The Rajput accounts pertaining to the fall of Jaor and Ranthambhore will be recalled in this context (*Prachin Gurjara Kavya*, edited by R. B. K. H. Dhruva, Ahmedabad, Gujarat Vernacular Society, 1-11 and 1-14). Thus Shriddhar writes that Muslim *thanedars* trembled in fear of their lives when the night raids of Ranmal sounded alarms in places, such as Dholka, Cambay and in Patan itself.

2. MISRA S. C., *Rise of Muslim Power in Gujarat*, Bombay, (1963), pp. 144-145.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 145.

This invasion was better planned. Tatar Khan the son of Zafar Khan who had arrived from Delhi and his brother Shams Khan, accompanied Zafar Khan. The soldiers were ordered to cut down the forest, the best defence bastion of Idar as they advanced and the roads were cleared. On the Rajput side, *Ranmal Chhanda* gives a picturesque version of the campaign which is more poetic than factual.

This time too, however, Zafar Khan had to compromise and return without accomplishing his object. Shriddhar gives the cause of this withdrawal to be the personal valour of Ranmal and his Rajputs who frustrated the attempts of the invaders—so much that, flushed with victory, Ranmal declared that he would, "plant his banners in Dhar, Kadi would be his, Broach he would raid and Cambay too he would seize, and lastly, he would strike at Patan and capture the Sultan alive, thus reigning supreme on this earth".[1]

The Persian chroniclers supply a more prosaic reason, namely, the news of the devastation of Delhi by Timur and the uncertainty of his future moves, which made Zafar Khan cut short the siege and accept the overtures of Rao Ranmal. This may be one of the causes for the abrupt termination of the siege. However, it gave the Rajputs a feeling of victory which is reflected in the *Ranmal Chhanda*. Surely, the chieftains of Idar were neither so powerful nor so situated as to challenge and destroy the rising power of the new Muslim rulers of Gujarat. What they did accomplish was a resistance which was as defiant and heroic as Rajput resistance traditionally had been.

The final invasion of Idar during the tenure of Zafar Khan came in 1400-01 A. D. when the offensive was resumed. In their brief notice of this campaign, the Persian chroniclers declare that Rao Ranmal, unable to withstand the siege and attack of Zafar Khan abandoned his fort and fled to Visnagar. Thereupon, Zafar Khan entered the fort, raided temples and placed a trustworthy officer in charge of the fort. A thana was established at Idar and the principality was divided among the nobles.

The attack, however, does not appear to have been so shattering as this. The Persian chroniclers do not write when Rao Ranmal regained his territories : twelve years later, in 1412-13 A. D. he was found to be in complete control of Idar, helping Ahmed Shah's cousin Mu'id-u'd-din in the rebellion against the Sultan[2] A bitter struggle was yet to precede the final surrender of Idar to the Sultans of Gujarat.

The famous Sultan Ahmad Shah I ascended the throne of Gujarat on 10 January. 1411 A. D.[3] The greater part of Sultan Ahmad's long rule of

1. MISRA S. C., *Rise of Muslim Power in Gujarat*, Bombay, (1963). pp. 145-146.
2. *Ibid.*
3. BAYLEY's *Gujarat*, 88.

32 years was spent in military operations carried out either against the independent Hindu Rajas of Gujarat or against the two Muslim rulers of Malwa and the Deccan. So far as the history of Sabarkantha district is concerned, we are concerned with his war against Rao Punja of Idar. However, before describing the war, it would be appropriate to review the background of the confederacy of the Hindu Rajas, who had combined against Sultan Ahmad. In 1415 A D., Sultan Ahmad Shah attacked the holy town of Siddhpur on the bank of the Saraswati in the north Gujarat, where he broke the images in the celebrated temple of Rudramahalaya and turned the building into a mosque.[1] The old Rajputs States of eastern Gujarat realised that the young Sultan besides being ambitious of military glory was also fired with a desire for the destruction of the temples of the Hindu religion. In 1416 A. D., four powerful princes, *viz.*, Rao Punja of Idar and the rulers of Champaner, Jhalawad and Nandod formed a confederacy against Ahmad Shah and sought the help of Hoshang of Malwa who advanced with army as far as Modasa (an important town in the district). However, Ahmad Shah by forced marches arrived at this place and Hoshang not considering it desirable to risk a war, retired to his capital, while confederate Rajas were forced to disperse.[2]

The State of Idar by this time had become powerful. Sultan feared this Rajput State very much. In 1426 A. D., he, therefore, decided to risk a war against Rao Punja of Idar. The idea behind the offensive against the Idar was to break the trouble spot and punish its ruler Rao Punja, the successor of Rao Ranmal, who had fought against Ahmad Shah earlier. Moreover, he had not paid any tribute for the last several years. All the gains which Muzaffar Shah won during several hard fought campaigns appeared to have been lost after his death. A force was, therefore, despatched to reduce the Rajput chief. Rao Punja had a clash with this force and seems to have prevailed against it for immediately after, the Sultan himself took the field against him. The seriousness with which he viewed the task of reducing the Rajput State was evident from the fact that he founded a new town after his name on the banks of the Hathmati and proposed to stay there till the successful conclusion of the campaign. The foundations of Ahmadnagar (now called Himatnagar) fortress were laid : the Sultan took the field and his troops were deploved over the entire area of the Idar, which he ravaged and laid waste the land.

The reduction of a massive citadel like Idar was, however, not an easy task.[3] Rao Punja also fought tenaciously and vigorously adopting

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1. FAZLULLAH, *Mirat-i-Sikandari*.

2. BAYLEY's *Gujarat*, 100-1, FAZLULLAH, *Mirati-i-Sikandari*-15, BRIGGS, *Firishta*, IV, 19-20.

3. Prof. Commissariat gives an excellent description of the town and its monuments, together with a description of the fort and its impregnability., *op. cit.*, 84-6.

guerilla tactics of hide and seek and of harassing the enemy troops as much as possible. Soon, however, he discovered that Ahmad Shah was not to be moved from his purpose and that he did not have the resources to cope with the invader. He, therefore, sent envoys to Ahmad Shah suing for peace and offered to pay a large ransom besides the regular tribute. The Sultan, who had determined not to be content with anything less than Rao Punja's annihilation, rejected the overtures and advanced to lay siege to the fort of Idar.

The advance compelled Rao Punja to abandon Idar and take refuge in his hill fort of Visnagar. The Sultan advanced towards Idar, occupied outskirts of the city and ravaged them. He thereafter returned to his camp at Ahmadnagar.[1]

Next year in 1426-27 A. D., the fort of Ahmadnagar was completed, and the Sultan resumed once again the offensive. Troops were again despatched to lay Idar waste and the Sultan himself advanced to the ramparts of that hill-town Rao Punja had in the meanwhile made serious efforts to augment his strength. When the Sultan approached again, he tried frantically to conciliate Ahmad Shah and ward him off by the payment of ransom and tribute. Ahmad Shah, however felt, as chroniclers tell us, that reasons of State prevented him from taking any but the extreme steps in relation to this incurable rebel.

The pressure of the Sultan made Rao Punja abandon his capital once more and he took refuge in the hills harassing the Sultan's army. In this tussle, on 29 February, 1428 A. D., he met his end. A foraging party was surprised by Rao Punja and his men, who captured an elephant of the royal train and took it with them. They, however, discounted the loyalty of the *muhawat*, (the elephant-driver). As they fled carrying the elephant with them followed by the Sultan's troops, they came to a narrow deep ravine with a precipice which had only a narrow ledge permitting a single horsemen to get across. As Rao Punja entered this pass, the faithful elephant-driver drove his animal at him, due to which Rao Punja's horse shied and the rider and the horse went down into the ravine. Next day, his head was recovered and brought into Ahmad Shah's presence: a former attendant of his identified it with the remark, " Yes this is the head of Rao-Ji ". Some of Ahmad Shah's attendants did not appreciate the addition of the respectful suffix; but the Sultan himself commended the man on his sense of loyalty.

Another version of the story is as follows :

It is said, " In 1428 A. D., during a skirmish in the hills with the royal troops, Rao Punja was entrapped in a precipitous defile and was killed by

1. He did not return to Ahmedabad during this interval.

falling into an abyss. The next day a woodcutter cut off his head and brought it to the Sultan's court where it was identified."[1]

Thereafter, the Sultan marched into Idar and with the arch-rebel dead, his task for the time being was accomplished. Narayan Rao, Rao Punja's heir surrendered and was duly forgiven and installed in his father's place on the condition of paying a heavy tribute of three lakhs of silver tankas.

After leaving Malik Hasan, ennobled as Sardar U'lmulk, in the Thanah of Ahmadnagar, the Sultan returned to his capital. On the way, he made a detour into the hilly country on the Gujarat-Mewad border, ravaging the lands and destroying the villages.

The very next year, however, trouble with Idar broke out afresh. Some of the Sultan's attendants were asked to collect their dues from Narayan Rao, but when they approached him, he delayed the making of the payment, putting it off by various excuses. In the meanwhile, he learnt that Ahmad Shah himself was preparing to march to Idar; the result was that filled with alarm, he himself fled from Idar and took refuge in the forest. When this news reached the Sultan, he marched to Idar with a large retinue, entering it on 13th November, 1428 A. D. He stayed there for sometime, laid the foundations of a Jami mosque and then returned to the capital.

The State of Idar again assumed prominence in the reign of Sultan Muzaffar II, 'The clement', (1511-1526 A. D.). He ascended the throne of Gujarat on 24th November, 1511 A. D., under the title of Muzaffar Shah II. So far as the history of the district is concerned his intervention in the affairs of the Rajput State of Idar situated on his north-eastern frontier deserves notice.

Sultan Mahmud I's designs against the great Rajput States of Junagadh and Champaner and his other campaigns had evidently left him little time to interfere with the affairs of the feudatory State of Idar. Raja Bhim Singh of Idar (1509 A D. to 1515 A. D.), son of Rao Bhan, taking advantage of the preoccupation of this Sultan with the civil war in Malwa, broke out into rebellion in 1513 A. D. and raided the country to the east of the Sabarmati. Ain-ul-Mulk Fuladi, Governor of Patan, who was on his way to Godhra with his contingent to join the Sultan, turned aside to punish the Raja, but he was defeated, and his brother as also 200 of his men were slain. Muzaffar on receiving this news, marched in person to Modasa and drove Bhim Singh into the hills Arriving on the outskirts of Idar, he gave orders for the sack of the city, destroying the temples, palaces and other buildings. The Raja sought the intercession of Malik Gopi, a Hindu and

1. Commissariat M. S., *History of Gujarat*, p. 88.

one of the king's ministers, and was forgiven on paying a large tribute and making suitable presents (1513 A. D.).

In 1515 A. D., the death of Rao Bhim Singh of Idar was followed by a disputed succession in which Bharmal, the son of the late ruler, was ousted by his cousin Raimal. The contending parties were supported by Muzaffar II on one side and by Rana Sangram Singh on the other. The latter asserted his claim to supremacy over all the Rajput princes in India and espoused the cause of his son-in-law Raimal. Sultan Muzaffar could ill brook this interference with the internal affairs of a State which had for generations owed allegiance to the Gujarat rulers. He, therefore, deputed Nizam-ul-Mulk, the Jagirdar of Ahmadnagar (Himatnagar) to expel the pretender and restore Bharmal to the throne. This general had a high reputation for bravery and was the son of the last Raval of Champaner, having been brought up as a Muslim in the court of Mahmud Begada. Nizam-ul-Mulk advanced and replaced Bharmal on the throne; but having pursued the pretender into the hills, he was brought to action and defeated with severe loss. The king reproved his general for having exceeded his instructions and recalled him to the capital. Raimal was not finally subdued till two years later.[1]

The Idar State had also to face the onslaught of Akbar's invasion. In 1573 A. D. Raja Bhagwandas was sent to subdue Rao Narandas. His submission was duly secured. Alongwith the end of sultanate the relations of Idar State with sultanate came to an end. The Mughal period now began. During the Mughal period the expedition against Idar which took place in 1679 A. D. deserves mention. About the year 1679 A. D., the ruler of Idar, Rao Gopinath, who had long been leading the life of an outlaw, managed to recover possession of his capital with the help of his Rajput followers. Thereupon, Muhammad Amin Khan, the viceroy, appointed one of his officers, named Muhammad Bahlol Sherwani, to the task of driving him out. The latter was a brave and experienced commander and he marched on Idar with a force of cavalry. Proceeding by way of Prantij, he reached Idar, whose ruler had taken refuge in his hill-fortress for safety; but when Sherwani stormed this citadel, the Raja fled from his fort into the hills. For sometime, all search after him proved to be in vain, till at last a low-caste man, who had gone into the defiles for collecting firewood, found his dead body, and it was believed that death had been caused on account of the Raja being deprived of his usual large dose of opium. The Dhed cut off the dead man's head, which he guessed to be the ruler's from the pearls in its ears and other ornaments, and brought it to Muhammad Bahlol, who sent the same to the Ranis, and their lamentations when they recognised their lord, established his identity beyond doubt. The victorious general then forwarded the trophy, along

1. BRIGGS' *Firishta*, 83-84, BAYLEY's *Gujarat*, 252-53 and *Arabic History*, I, 100-01

with some captives, to the subahdar at Ahmadabad with full details of the expedition. When the news was conveyed to the Emperor, he ordered an increase in the mansab of Bahlol Sherwani and appointed him fauzdar of Idar.[1]

The history of the States and Estates whose territories form the part of the district is now reviewed in details. The history of these States and Estates is mainly based on the "Mahi Kantha Directory" prepared by *Shri Framroz Sorabji Master.*

Idar State

EARLY HISTORY OF IDAR STATE

Idar is first known in tradition as Ildurg, the residence in the Dvapar Yug, or third age, of Elvan the Rakshas, and his brother Vatapi. These demons, man-eaters, who harassed and laid waste the country round, were at last destroyed by the seer Agastya. In the Kali Yug, or present age, when Yudhishthir was fresh in men's memories and Vikram had not yet risen to free the world from debt, Veni Vachh Raj ruled in Idar. He owned a magic gold figure which gave him money for building the Idar fortress and reservoirs. Veni Vachh Raj's queen was a Nagputri the daughter of one of the Snake Kings of the under-world. After living together happily for sometime, as they were seated in an oriel window in Idargadh, a corpse, followed by a train of mourners, chanced to pass. Asking what the procession meant, the Rani was told that one of them was dead and that the rest were mourning. 'Let us leave a place where men die' said the Rani, and she and the king went together to the hill of Taran Mata, and entering a cleft in the rock, close to where the goddess is now worshipped, they were no more seen. Then the land remained desolate for many years.

THE GEHLOT RULERS (800 to 970 A. D.)

When Valabhinagar fell (770 A. D.), Pushpavati, one of Shiladitya's queens, was at the Arasur shrine of Amba Bhavani, fulfilling a vow, for the goddess had heard her prayer and she was pregnant. On her way back. Pushpavati heard that Valabhi had fallen and that she was a widow. Taking refuge in a mountain cave, she delivered a son, whom she named 'Goha' the Cave-born. Leaving the babe in the charge of a Brahman woman, and telling her to bring him up as one of her own sons but to marry him to a Rajput's daughter, she mounted the funeral pile and followed her lord. Idar was then in the hands of the Bhils, and the young Goha, leaving his Brahman mother. took to the woods with the Bhils,

1. *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, I, pp. 299-300.

and, by his daring, won their hearts. One day the Bhils in sport choosing a king, the choice fell on Goha, and one 'of the children of the forest' cutting his finger rubbed the blood on Goha's forehead as the sovereign mark, *tilak*. Thus Goha, the son of Shiladitya, became lord of the forests and the mountains of Idar. His descendants are said to have ruled for seven generations, till the Bhils tired of strangers, attached and slew Nagaditya, the eighth prince of the line. His infant son Bapa, then only three years old, was saved to become, twelve years later (974 A. D.), the founder of the Meywar dynasty.[1] Then the city fell into ruins.

THE PARIHAR RULERS (1000 to 1200 A. D.)

Sometime after, a band of the Parihar Rajputs, from Mandovar, in Marwar, binding the garland upon its gates, refounded Idar, and ruled there for several generations. In the time of one of these Parihar rulers, Amarsing by name, the Raja of Kanouj, performing a sacrifice in honour of his daughter's marriage, sent letters of invitation to the neighbouring Rajas. Idar was then subject to Chitor, and Samarshi Raval of Chitor invited by his brother-in-law Pruthuraj to accompany him to the marriage, summoned his vassal Amarsing to attend him. The Parihar chieftain, with his son and a body of five thousand horse, went to Chitor, and soon after (1193 A. D.), the Idar force was cut to pieces in the great slaughter of Thanesar. When the news reached Idar, many of the Ranis cast themselves from the steep cliff to the north of the town, still known as the 'Ranis Leap' or 'Murder Hill'.

Amarsing had left Idar in the hands of a servant Hathi Sord, a Koli, in whom he had every trust. Hathi held the country till his death, and was succeeded by his son Samalio Sord, in whose time the Rathods first (1257 A. D.) appeared in Idar.[2]

THE RATHODS (1250 A. D.)

Driven south by the Muhammadans, the Rathods about the end of the twelfth century, under the guidance of Siyoji the son or nephew of Jaychand Dale Panglo of Kanouj, established themselves in the sandy deserts of Marwar.[3] Siyoji's second son Sonagji repaired to the court of Anhilvada, whose sovereign, probably Bhim Dev II (1177-1215 A. D.), assigned him the fief of Sametra in the district of Kadi. And not many years after the Rathods won for themselves the fort and lands of Idar. The local story of this conquest, is that Samalio Sord by his tyranny roused his

1. Tod gives 524 A. D. as the date of the fall of Valabhinagar, and 726 A. D. as that of the foundation of the Meywar dynasty. *Rajasthan*, I, 191.

2. *Ras Mala*, 233-235.

3. TOD's *Rajasthan*, II, 2.

subjects' discontent. His chief adviser, a Nagar Brahman, had a beautiful daughter, whom Samalio demanded in marriage. The father, not daring to refuse pleaded for half year's delay. This was granted, and in the interval he paid a visit to Sametra, and introducing himself to Sonagji, asked him if he was bold enough to take Idar. Sonagji agreed to try, and the Brahman, returning home, declared that he was making preparations for the marriage and was assembling his relations. By twos and threes, a hundred carriages supposed to contain Brahman women, brought to the Minister's mansion, the Rathod warriors and their leader. The minister at length gave out that all was ready, and invited Samalio and his relations to the feast. After the arrival of the bridegroom and his party, intoxicating drugs and liquor were freely served, and on the minister's ordering his servants to bring the second course, the Rajputs rushed forward and surrounded the banquet hall. Samalio strove to cut his way through his enemies and regain the fortress, but, within a short distance of the gate of Idargadh, fell mortally wounded. When Sonagji came to the spot, where he lay dying, Samalio, raising himself for the last time, made the royal mark on the victorious Rathod's brow, and with his dying breath begged that each Rathod Rao on mounting the royal cushion should be marked with the *tilak* by a Sord, who should draw the blood from his own right hand, and say 'May the kingdom of Samalio Sord flourish'. Spots on the ascent to Idargadh, still point to as Samalio's blood stains, are marked by the Hindus with vermillion on 'the dark fourteenth' and other days on which Hanuman is worshipped. For the next four generations, the Idar territories remained unchanged Then Ranmal, the fifth in descent from Sonagji, took from a Yadav family the country called the Bhagar between Idar and Meywar.

THE MUSALMAN SUPREMACY (1300 A. D.)

During this time, Muhammadan power had spread over Gujarat, and Idar had been forced to acknowledge its supremacy. According to one account, Muzaffar one of Ala-u'd-din's (1295-1315 A. D.) generals took Idar, and it seems probable that Idar was unable to avoid sharing in the general submission enforced by Alp Khan in the early years of the fourteenth century (1300-1317 A. D.). Muhammad Tughuluq (1325-1351 A. D.), about forty years later, on entering Gujarat to quell a revolt, first turned his arms against the chiefs of the north-east frontier, and Idar was probably included in the settlement of the province, a work on which the Emperor spent the next three years (1347-1350 A. D.).[1] Under the weaker rulers that followed Muhammad, Idar would seem to have been left unmolested till, near the close of the century, Musalman supremacy was again enforced by Zafar Khan, afterwards Muzaffar Shah the founder of the Ahmedabad dynasty.

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[1] *Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi*, ELLIOT's *History*, III, 263

THE SIEGE OF IDAR (1398 A. D.)

In 1393 A. D., the Idar chief refusing to pay his tribute, the Viceroy invaded his fort, and after a long seige, forced the garrison to surrender and exorted a large payment of money and jewels. Five years later (1398 A. D.),[1] Zafar Khan, determining to reduce Idar, besieged the fort and laid the country waste. While the garrison held out, news came of Timur's overthrow of the Delhi Emperor, and concluding a peace with Ranmal, Zafar Khan returned to Patan (1401 A. D.). After three years according to one account, he again marched to levy the tribute of Idar, when the chief fled to Visalnagar, leaving Zafar Khan to occupy his capital.[2] If this account is correct, the Idar chief must soon after have been restored; for, in the revolt that followed the death of Muzaffar Shah (1411 A. D.), two of the rebels, Moid-ud-din Firoz Khan the cousin, and Masti Khan the uncle of Sultan Ahmad I, were aided by Ranmal, the Idar Chief and took refuge in his fortress. Sultan Ahmad sending troops against the rebels forced them to flee to Nagor, and Rao Ranmal despairing of success made peace with the king by surrendering his horses, elephants, and other war materials (1414 A. D.).[3] About thirteen years later (1426 A. D.).[4] Sultan Ahmed again marched against Idar, defeated the force brought to meet him, and drove Rao Punja, the successor of Ranmal, to the hills. Idar was always troublesome neighbour and difficult to subdue, for, when his country was threatened, the chief could retire to his hills, where he could not easily be followed.

AHMEDNAGAR FORT BUILT (1427 A. D.)

As a permanent check on his movements, Ahmad Shah, in 1427 A. D. built the fort of Ahmednagar (Himatnagar) on the banks of the Hathmati. In the following year (1428 A. D.), during a frontier foray, Rao Punja, repulsed and pursued by the Muhammadan cavalry, gallopped towards Idar, and, as he passed along a path at the edge of a ravine, his horse shied, and, falling into the chasm below, killed his rider. After Rao Punja's death Sultan Ahmad marched on Idar and did not return till Punja's son Narandas had agreed to pay a yearly tribute of Rs. 3,000.[5] Next year[6] Rao Narandas failing to pay his tribute, Sultan Ahmad again marched to Idar, and, on the 14th of November, carried by storm one of the chief forts in the province, probably Idargadh, and built in it a magnificent mosque.

1. Major WATSON's gives 1397, Watson's *Gujarat*, p. 30, also *Bom. Gov. Sel.* XII, 105
2. *Ras Mala*, 251.
3. WATSON's *Gujarat*, 33. *Ras Mala*, 251, gives 1412, and *Bom. Gov. Sel.* XII, 105 1411.
4. WATSON's *Gujarat*, 1425, p. 35.
5. WATSON's *Gujarat*, p. 36.
6. *Ras Mala*, (1428), p. 269.

IDAR TAKEN

In 1445 A. D., Muhammad II, the son and successor of Ahmad, marched against Rao Bhan, the brother and successor of Narandas, who by the Muhammadans is called Bir or Vir Rai Rao Bhan for a time took to the hills; but afterwards agreeing to give the Sultan his daughter in marriage, his possessions were confirmed to him.[1] Rao appears to have remained quiet during the reign of Mahmud Begda, as from 1459 A. D. to 1513 A. D. no mention is made of any expedition against him. Rao Bhan left two sons. Surajmal and Bhim. Surajmal ruled for only eighteen months, leaving a son Raimalji, whose place was, in his minority, usurped by his uncle Bhim. In 1514 A. D., Rao Bhim defeated Ain-ul-Mulk, Governor of Patan, who on his way to Ahmedabad had turned aside to attack the Rao. So daring a success brought on the Rao the full weight of the king's displeasure. Advancing with a great army he found Idar abandoned. He destroyed it. At this time, Muzaffar was anxious to advance into Malwa, and, on receiving a large sum of money, made peace with the Rao.[2] Rao Bhim, on his death, was succeeded by his son Bharmal, who soon after was deposed by Rana Sang of Chitor, whose daughter was married to Raimal, the son of Surajmal. In 1515 A. D. Bharmal sought the aid of Sultan Muzaffar, and he sending Nizam-ul-Mulk one of his chief officers, replaced Bharmal as ruler of Idar.[3] Raimal did not despair, and two years after again appearing in Idar, defeated a Muhammadan officer, Zehr-ul-Mulk, the Jher Khan of Hindu tradition. Soon after this Raimal died, and Bharmal became the undisputed chief. But his capital remained in the hands of the Musalmans In 1519 A. D., in the presence of Mubariz-ul-Mulk, Governor of Idar, some one praised the bravery of Rana Sang of Chitor. Mubariz, to show his contempt, ordered a dog to be tied to the gate of the Idar fort, and to be called Rana Sang. Hearing of this insult, Rana Sang, marched against Idar. Mubariz having only 900 men retired to Ahmednagar, and Sang taking Idar and marching against Ahmednagar defeated Mubariz and plundered the town. This Hindu success did not last long. In the next year (Dec. 1520 A. D.) Sultan Muzaffar marched on Idar and again took it. During the Musalman occupation of their capital, the Raos are said to have lived at Sarvan, the village held by the descendants of Samalio Sord. The Musalmans did not seem to have held Idar for any length of time. Rao Bharmal again occupied his capital and was twice attacked by Bahadur Shah in 1528 A. D. and in 1530 A. D. The second expedition seems to have reduced Rao Bharmal to obedience, as mention is made that in 1530 A. D. Bahadur led an army into Bayad and the Rajas of Idar and Dungarpur were presented and served in his camp. Dying in 1543 A. D., Bharmal was succeeded by Punjaji During Punjaji's time, the power of the Ahmedabad

1. WATSON'S *Gujarat*, p. 37.

2. *Bom. Gov. Sel.* XII, p. 105.

3. Major Watson gives 1517 A. D.; WATSON'S *Gujarat*, 46.

kings greatly declined, and, as he is never mentioned, the Idar chief was probably left in almost complete independence. Afterwards in the reigns of the last Ahmedabad Kings (1540-1572 A. D.), the Rao of Idar was freed from the demand of tribute on agreeing to serve with 2,000 horse.[1] Punjaji was succeeded by his son Narandas, a great ascetic, who lived only on grain that had first been eaten by cows.[2]

TRIBUTARY TO AKBAR (1576 A. D.)

In 1573 A. D., Narandas took part in the revolt against Khan Aziz Koka, the Viceroy of Gujarat. This revolt was checked by Akbar in person, and in 1575 A. D. and again in 1576 A. D., expeditions were sent against Idar. In the last of these the Rao fled, and Idar fell into the Emperor's hands. Following his usual policy, Akbar, asking for no more than an admission of his supremacy, restored the Rao to his State and made him a commander of 2,000 infantry and 500 cavalry.[3] Rao Narandas was succeeded by Viramdev, a favourite hero with the bards. Viramdev left no son, and, in supersession of his elder brother Gopaldas, was succeeded by his brother Kalianmal. Going to Delhi Gopaldas took service with the Emperor in the hope of being helped to regain Idar. At length, advancing at the head of an army, he took possession of Mandva, planning from there an advance on Idar. While at Mandva, Lal Mia,[4] the Musalman landlord of that place, fell on him, and Gopaldas, with fifty-two Rajputs, was slain.

When he went to Delhi, Gopaldas left his family at the hamlet of a cowherd named Volo. On growing up Gopaldas' sons made the hamlet their headquarters calling it Valasna after the cowherd, and gradually encroached on the country round till their lands were included, the estates of great and little Valasna. At the same time Kalianmal, the ruler of Idar, conquered from Meywar the districts of Panavda, Pahari, Javas, Jora, Pathia, Valecha and others that had been brought under Meywar in the reign of Viramdev. Kalianmal was succeeded by his son Rao Jagannath. During Kalianmal's rule two political parties had been formed, one including the proprietors of Vasai, Mundeti, and Kariadara supported by the chiefs of Posina and Derol · and the other including Garibdas, the Rehvar Thakor of Ranasan, the chief Muhammadan Kasbatis of Idar, and Motichand Shah, proprietor of Vadali. In these times (about 1650 A. D.), the Gujarat Viceroys began to levy the Idar tribute more regularly than before, and Vetal Barot of Baroda was the Emperor's security for the Idar chiefs. This security became in time his creditor for so large an amount that the Rao determined to

1 BIRD'S *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, 127.

2. GLADWIN'S *Ain-i-Akbari*, II, 64.

3 GLADWIN'S *Ain-i-Akbari*, 64. The yearly revenue of Idar was, at this time returned at about 16,16,000 dams and that of Ahmednagar at 17,70,912 dams. According to the *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* (Bird, 343), Idar was taken in 1573 A. D. and again, (Bird, 349), attacked in 1578 A. D.

4. This Lal Mia was probably an ancestor of the Mia of Mandva.

get rid of him, and bringing a charge of fornication against him, drove him out of Idar. Upon this Vetal going to Delhi sought the Emperor's help, promising to bring Idar into his hands. The Emperor ordered Prince Murad, then Viceroy of Ahmedabad (1654-1657 A. D.), to help Vetal with 5,000 horse. The Rao's agent at the court of Delhi sent word of the threatened danger. But on Vetal's assurance that the rumour was false, Rao made no preparation. Soon, after, Prince Murad appeared, and, the Rao retiring to Pol, Idar was taken without a blow. (1656 A. D.).[1] Placing a Muhammadan officer Syed Hatho in command, Prince Murad continued the Idar ministers in the management of affairs. Soon after, in his retreat at Pol, Rao Jagannath died.

IDAR REGAINED (1658 A. D.)

His son Punja, then a minor, went to Delhi to receive investiture, but failing by the rivalry of the Jeypur Raja, fled in disguise and joined his mother at Udepur. Helped by the Rana of Udepur, Rao Punja, in 1658 A. D., won back Idar, where he lived, placing his Ranis and treasure at Sarvan. Poisoned after ruling for about six months, he was succeeded by his brother Arjundas, who while attacking Ranasan was slain by the Rehvars. On Arjundas' death, Rao Jagannath's brother Gopinath began plundering as far as Ahmedabad, and was bought off by Syed Hatho, the Musalman Governor, by monetary payments. Syed Hatho was replaced by Kamal Khan, an indolent man whom Rao Gopinath drove out, and, regained Idar, and held it for five years (1664 A. D.). Garibdas Rehvar, who was at the head of a party in Idar, fearing that Gopinath would take vengeance for Arjundas, brought an army from Ahmedabad to drive him out. Rao fled to the hills and died for want of opium of which he was accustomed to take a pound and a quarter a day. The affairs of Idar now fell into the hands of Motichand Shah, proprietor of Vadali, and the proprietor of Vasai, Garibdas being the chief minister. In 1679 A. D. Karansing, Gopinath's son, drove out the Muhammadan garrison from Idar and regained possession of his capital. Shortly after, Muhammad Amin Khan and Muhammad Bahlol Khan retook Idar, the chief flying to Sarvan where he stayed till his death.[2]

Karansing had two sons, Chando or Chandrasing, and Madhavsing. Madhavsing took possession of Verabar, which his descendants held. For several years Idar remained in the hands of a Musalman garrison commanded by Muhammad Bahlol Khan. In 1696 A. D., Chandrasing began to make raids on the Idar territory, and in 1718 A. D., the proprietors of Vasai having driven out the Muhammadan garrison, brought him back to Idar. His soldiers getting clamorous for their pay, he gave Sardarsing of Valasna as security, and entrusting the Government to him retired to Pol. Putting the ruler a Parihar Rajput to death, he seated himself on the royal Gadi

1. *Ras Mala*, 342, *Bom. Gov. Sel.* XII, 107, gives 1655.

2. WATSON's *Gujarat*, 81.

and founded the ruling family of Pol. At Idar after for sometime ruling in Chandrasing's name, Sardarsing was raised to the chiefship; but afterwards quarrelling with the Kasbatis, he had to retire to Valasna. Bacha Pandit then ruled in Idar till 1731 A. D. He was driven out by Maharajas Anandsing and Raising, brothers of Maharaja Abhaysing of Jodhpur.[1]

MAHARAJA ANANDSING (1731 to 1742 A. D.)

Of the succession of the Jodhpur chiefs of the Rathod clan two stories are told; one that they were called in by the Idar ministers; the other that they had been in revolt against their brother, the Maharaja Abhaysing, Viceroy of Gujarat, and had been pacified by the grant of Idar.

In 1734 A. D., Jawan Mard Khan, one of the leading Gujarat Musalman nobles, marched on Idar. Anandsing and Raising sought the aid of Malhar Rao Holkar and Ranoji Sindia, who were at this time in Malwa. The Maratha chiefs at once marched to their help, and Jawan Mard Khan, who found himself opposed to an overwhelming army, was forced to agree to pay a sum of Rs. 1,75,000.[2] At the close of the rainy season of 1738 A D. Momin Khan (1738-1743 A. D.), the Viceroy of Gujarat came to Idar and levied tribute from the chiefs of Mohanpur and Ranasan. This tribute Anandsing and Raising claimed as being within the limits of their own territory. But the dispute was amicably settled, Raising, at Momin Khan's request, remaining with him, and Momin Khan agreeing to pay his men's expenses.[3] In 1741 A. D., Rangoji, the Maratha chief, induced Raising to leave Momin Khan and join his service, but Momin soon detached Raising from this alliance by conferring on him the districts of Modasa, Kankrej, Ahmednagar, Prantij and Harsol.[4] Next year (1742 A. D.) the Rehvar Rajputs attacked and took Idar killing the chief Raja Anandsing On hearing of this disaster, his brother Raising, taking leave from Momin Khan, went to Idar, attacked and drove out the Rehvars,[5] and placing Anandsing's son, Shivsing, a boy of six years on the throne himself acted as minister. Raising died in 1750 A. D.[6]

MAHARAJA SHIVSING (1742 to 1791 A. D.)

During the Maratha and Musalman struggles which ended in the Maratha capture of Ahmedabad in 1757 A. D., Shivsing would seem to have sided with the Musalmans, and to have been, as a punishment forced

1. *Ras Mala*, 346. This date seems uncertain. *Bom. Gov. Sel.* XII, 107, gives 1728 A. D.; *Bombay Gazetteer*, 1729 A. D.; and Thornton, 1724 A. D.
2. WATSON'S *Gujarat*, 113.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 120.
4. WATSON'S *Gujarat*, 126. According to another account, (*Bom. Gov. Sel.* XII. 23), these districts formed part of Idar on the accession of Anandsing in 1731 A. D.
5. WATSON'S *Gujarat*, 126. *Bom. Gov. Sel.* XII, 25, gives 1740 A. D.
6. WATSON'S *Gujarat*, 137. The date seems uncertain. *Bom. Gov. Sel.* XII, 107, gives 1765 A.D. and again, (p. 25), states that Raising died shortly after 1751 A.D.

to give up Prantij, Vijapur, and his halves of Modasa, Bayad, and Harsol.[1] About the year 1766 A. D. the Gaekwad army under Appa Saheb came to Idar and demanded from Shivsing half of the territory of Idar as belonging to his uncle Raising who had died without male issue. Shivsing tried to avoid compliance, but was in the end compelled to write over a half share of the revenues of the State[2] In 1778 A. D., the Peshwa's deputy at Ahmedabad, with the help of the brother of Surajmal, one of the Idar proprietors who had been put to death by the eldest son of Shivsing, levied a tax in the Idar districts named *ghanim ghoda vero* or the robbers' cess.

MAHARAJA GAMBHIRSING (1791 to 1855 A. D.)

Thirteen years later Shivsing,[3] died (1791 A. D.) leaving five sons, Bhavanising, Sagramsing, Zalimsing, Amirsing and Indrasing. Prior to his death he had bestowed the districts of Ahmednagar in patta on Sagramsing. Bhavanising succeeded to the Gadi, but dying immediately after, his son Gambhirsing, a youth of fourteen years of age, assumed the reins of Government. Indrasing, the youngest son, being blind from his birth, his mother, prior to immolating herself with her husband, requested the village of Wasai might be made over to him for his maintenance; the other two brothers Zalimsing and Amirsing appear to have been left without any provision whatsoever All resided at Idar. Shortly after Gambhirsing's accession his uncles conspired to murder him, but the plot was found out and they were ordered to leave Idar. Shortly after the death of Bhavanising, at the instigation of Sagramsing, the two brothers conspired to take the life of their nephew, Gambhirsing, doubtless bought over by the promises of Sagramsing, who would have succeeded to the Gadi. The wife of Zalimsing was overheard by a slave reproaching her husband for the heinousness of the intended crime, and remonstrating with him on the folly of lending himself to assist in the dark designs of his elder brother, who would alone reap the benefit, whereas he would incur the odium.

The slave girl repeated this conversation to Gambhirsing, who on this occasion acted with much more spirit and determination than could have been expected from one so young in years. He left the palace, assembled all the Patavats who happened to be at Idar in consequence of his father's

1. *Bom. Gov. Rec.* 91-A of 1861 A. D. 75. The Idar account makes out that this cession was a free gift from the Idar chief to the Peshwa as a Brahman. But this is unlikely and it would seem that Shivsing had helped Momin Khan to resist the Marathas. Watson's *Gujarat*, 146.

2. *Bom. Govt. Rec* 91. A of 1861 A. D. According to another account Shivsing was obliged to pass a bond for Rs. 20,000. *Ras Mala*, 459.

3. During Shivsing's reign he is said by the bards to have made grants to his followers. Mudeti was given to Mansing Chohan, Chandni to Champavat Shovai, Mhan to Champavat Pratapsing, Ganthiol to Jethavat Uderamji, Tintoi to Kumpavat Amarsing, Vadiavi to Kumpavat Badarsing, Merasan to Jodha Indrasing, and Bhanphur to Udavat Lalsing. *Ras Mala.*

death and inquired if they were the servants of the Darbar, or of Sagramsing and his uncles. On their replying in his favour and, paying their respects accordingly, he communicated the plot to them. They all rallied around him and finding himself sufficiently strong to defy his uncles, he desired them to quit Idar, which they immediately did. Sagramsing retired to Ahmednagar, and Zalimsing and Amirsing for whom no provision had been made by their father took possession of the Bayad and Modasa subdivisions. In 1795 A. D., the three brothers made a joint foray into the Idar districts, and carried off a large quantity of cattle. This insult induced Gambhirsing to collect his followers, and give battle to his uncles, in which, however, he was defeated, and a gun was captured. This was owing to the treachery of the Chowan and Champavat clans, who had been bought over by his uncles, and remained neutral in the fight. When the gun was captured, Gambhirsing with the impetuosity of youth wished either to recover it or to die in the attempt, but he was diverted from his intentions by the Kookria Thakor (Champavat clan), who remained faithful and induced to leave the field. By the influence of the Bhats, a reconciliation between the uncles and nephew was effected, and agreements were entered into, very disadvantageous to Gambhirsing; for the former were not only allowed to retain the two Parganas of Modasa and Bayad which they had in the first instance seized upon, but every subsequent possession, which included Dawur, Arora, Veerawara, Bulochpoor, Vururawa, Senole, Gabat, and the *khichadi* payable by the Sabarkantha Chiefs.

All these villages, including Kuntaloo Bara, a Pata of twelve villages under a Bhomeea Chief, had been taken possession of by Zalimsing, either before or after the agreement alluded to; and on his dying without heirs, sometime after, a further hardship was perpetrated on Idar by the widow being allowed to adopt a younger son of the Ahmednagar family, to whom they went in failure of direct male issue.

Gambhirsing seems soon to have been aware of the imposition practised upon him; for two years afterwards (1797 A. D.), he informed his securities of his intention not to abide by engagements so detrimental to his interests, and desired them to make his uncles acquainted with his determination Preparations were made by both parties for a resort to arms.

Sagramsing of Ahmednagar died in 1798 A. D., leaving only son, Kanusing, a boy eleven years old, to succeed him Zalimsing knowing the intentions of Gambhirsing against the Pata, took the youth under his protection, and during his minority managed the affairs of his estate for him. As a precautionary measure, he applied to the Peshwas Government at Ahmedabad, and obtained its support in favour of his young nephew. Gambhirsing was in consequence compelled to postpone his designs upon the Pata.

In the year 1800, A. D. Gambhirsingh at the head of a numerous Seebundee, levied tax termed "Khundnee" from Kuruk Pura. Jawas Panora, and Sirwam. He took security for its regular payment, and in the later place left a Thana.

In 1801 A. D., a force from Palanpur took possession of Gadhwada and expelled the Koli Chiefs, who appealed to Gambhirsing, to whom they were tributary. Gambhirsing was not at the time in a position to afford them assistance; but the next year, the Mulkgiri force under Babajee came from Kathiawar and encamped at Sidhpoor, whence Gambhirsing was summoned to pay up his arrears of *Ghanim Ghoda Vero*. While he was there, for that purposes, Gambhirsing, who was most anxious to expel the Musalmans from Gadhwada, made overtures to the Suba, who agreed to assist him on condition of some increase being made to the tribute payable to the Gaekwad. After some difficulty it was settled at a sum of Rs. 24,001 and its name changed to Ghasdana. These arrangements being made Phureed Khan, in charge of Gadhwada, was driven out, and the Koli Chiefs, on being restored, wrote over half share of the revenues.

The Thakor of Gorwara, a Rehwar chief having been murdered by his brother (1804 A. D.), the son of the deceased sought the assistance of Gambhirsing in recovering his patrimony, which his uncle had seized upon. this was readily granted on condition of receiving two-fifth of the produce, which was accordingly written over to Idar and subsequently, at the intervention of Zalimsing, given to Indrasing.

Thakor Bhatheeji of Amaliara, a Koli chief of great energy and determination, had for a number of years rendered himself very obnoxious to his neighbours by his demands for Giras, which he was always ready to exact by force of arms. Some of Zalimsing's villages were not exempted from the payment of this tax, which was a very galling and humiliating one to the Rathor pride. It is also said that Bhatheejee, some years before, refused to make his salam to any one below Idar, when called on to do so by Zalimsing.

Bhatheeji's continued excesses and exactions eventually induced the Baroda Durbar to interfere, and a force under Raghoba Tatia marched to coerce him. Zalimsing, in order to take revenge for all the indignities he had suffered at the hands of this chief, immediately joined the Gaekwad force with all his followers, and was present at the time of attack on Amaliara, which was obstinately defended by the Kolis, who screened by the thick jungle and deep ravines around the village, inflicted on their opponents heavy losses. The Kolis in the end, were driven out, and the village occupied by the Gaekwad who dispersed in all directions for plunder. While he was so engaged, the Koli took the opportunity of attacking a gun slightly guarded as it was descending into the ravines. Zalimsing fearing that

his gun might fall into the enemy's hands went with a few followers to protect it across the river. Here he was set on by the Kolis and mortally wounded. The firing caused the troops to reassemble, and the fight recommenced and ended in the death of Raghoba Tatia and the retreat of the Gaekwad force.

In the year 1808 A. D., Gambhirsing attacked, Verabar, one of the Bhayats of the Rao of Pol, also Timba, a Koli village, and the villages of Nawgam and Borna. belonging to the Rana of Danta, from all of whom he compelled the payment of the *khichadi* tribute. After this, Pol was visited, and the Rao Ratansing was similarly obliged to give security.

Gambhirsing again rallied out, in 1809 A. D. and collected *khichadi* from the Koli villages of Karcha, Samera, Dehgamda, Vungur, Wandeole and Khoosky, the last a Rajput possession, belonging to the Dabhi Rajputs. He subsequently levied the same Huk from the Rehwar Patas of Sardoi, Mohanpur. Ranasan and Rupal.

Amirsing of Bayad died in 1823 A. D., leaving no male issue, but two unmarried daughters. Both Idar and Ahmednagar laid claims to the Taluka, the former, on account of its having formed originally, an integral part of its possessions, and from its being the head of the family, to whom all property devolved in default of male issue; the latter. on the plea of its never having been received in maintenance, but wrested from the parent stem, whereby the connexion between the two had been severed and the latter rendered independent of the former. Subsequently (1827 A. D.), through the instrumentality of Lieutenant-Colonel Ballantyne, an agreement was entered into for the settlement of their mutual claims on Modasa and Bayad. By this arrangement. Idar agreed to relinquish all rights upon the estate of Zalimsing, which was to be exclusively enjoyed by Ahmednagar. In consideration of this arrangement, the district of Kuntaloo Bara, a subsequent conquest of Zalimsing, was returned to Idar, and the remaining one-third to Ahmednagar, after deducting a certain annual allowance for the widow of the deceased; the two daughters to be provided for in marriage, for which purpose Ahmednagar agreed to advance Rs. 7,001 the remaining balance to devolve on Idar.

The settlement appears, however, never to have been acted upon, for the widow subsequently (1833 A. D.), wrote over the whole estate to Gambhirsing, on the condition of his effecting the marriage of her daughters, who were placed under his protection for that purpose; but the terms not having been fulfiled. perhaps owing to the death of the Raja. the remaining surviving daughter escaped from Idar, and returned to the protection of her mother and the Ahmednagar authorities, in whose favour a precisely similar document was executed by the widow. Shortly after the execution of this bond, the widow died, and the daughter having declined matrimony,

she with the assistance of Ahmednagar, continued the management of her estate.

Gambhirsing dying in the midst of these discussions, and there being no one to re-agitate them at the time, all being occupied in looking after their own interests, the subject of patrimony was dropped. A few months prior to the decrease of Gambhirsing, he having, it is said forbiddings of his approaching end, and knowing that his own conduct towards his Chiefs had been such as to alienate their affection from him and his family, took advantage of the presence of Mr. Erskine at Idar, to make over his son to the care of the British Government, rightly judging that this was the only way by which the machinations of his Chiefs could be subverted, and the integrity of his son's possessions preserved. At his death, seven wives and the same number of concubines sacrificed themselves on his funeral pyre.

MAHARAJA JAWANSING (1833-1868 A. D.)

The continuous gross mismanagement of the Idar State, exposed to the rapacity of unprincipled Chiefs and Karbharis, together with the helpless condition of the young prince, induced the Rani to apply to the British Government, during Captain Outram's Agency. (1837 A. D.), to place the same under attachment.

Shortly after the imposition of the attachment the disputes regarding the successions of Modasa were reagitated, and referred by the Rani of Idar to Captain Outram. From the investigation held by that Officer into these conficting claims, it appeared that the lady in possession of Bayad claimed the right of disposing of the property in any way she thought proper ; but a reference to Rajasthan proved fatal to this right of proprietorship. Because according to Rajput custom, no female can inherit property in her own right. The same authority, namely, the Rana of Udepur and Raja of Partapgadh, decided in favour of the Idar right to succeed, as being the head of the family, apparently, however, overlooking the point upon which the whole difficulty rested, namely, the possessions in dispute having been partly taken by the sword. Had it been otherwise, no dispute could have arisen ; both parties, anxious to obtain more than they were authorised to demand by deed entered into in 1827 A. D., cautiously avoided any allusion thereto, and it was not till 1840 A. D., when counter-claims were advanced by the Collector of Ahmedabad, that the Rani could be induced to produce this document, which was sufficiently satisfactory to warrant the settlement of the question upon this basis. The Ahmednagar authorities had all along evaded producing a similar document, in the hope of being able to effect a more beneficial arrangement for themselves. In the meanwhile, the death of the Maharaja of Jodhpur, and adoption of Tukhtsing to the throne of Marwar, to the exclusion of the Idar branch, the Raja of Idar, put a stop to any further proceedings, as the house of Idar in

right of its being the head of the family, claimed the whole of the Ahmednagar possessions.

This claim the Maharaja of Jodhpur attempted to set aside, on the plea of his son, and not himself having succeeded by adoption on the death of his nephew in 1841 A. D. an assertion at variance with truth, for the adoption took place the day before his leaving Ahmednagar *en route* to Jodhpur for the purpose of retaining the possession in his own family, and on which account the adoption was antedated to correspond with the demise of his nephew in 1841 A. D., and his own succession denied.

It was finally decided by the Government of India, in 1848 A. D., that Ahmednagar and its dependencies should revert to the elder of the Idar branch of the family, and that these two principalities should, as they did previous to 1784 A. D. again form one State, under the Raja of Idar, and that Maharaja Tukhtsing should be required immediately to remove his eldest son Jaswantsing, and the other members of his family, from Ahmednagar to Jodhpur.

MAHARAJA JAWANSINGJI (1855-1868 A. D.)

Maharaja Gambhirsingji had two sons of whom the first Umedsing died in his father's lifetime. Gambhirsing was succeeded by Maharaja Jawansing, a prince whose intelligence and loyalty gained for him the honour of a seat in the Bombay Legislative Council and the Knighthood of the Order of the Star of India. He was formerly some what addicted to insobriety, but his mother, and many of her relations having embraced the tenets of the Hindu reformer Shri Swami Narayan, a sect which had gained ground in the State, the Raja was also induced to become a proselyte to a creed which in addition to inclucating a stricter degree of morality, enjoins total abstinence from meat and spirituous liquors.

Mr. Alexander Rogers, Commissioner, Northern Division held a Darbar in Idar in 1868 A. D., where all the Chiefs of the Mahi Kantha took part and the title of Knighthood was bestowed upon the Maharaja on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen Empress of India. The Maharaja was also given an adoption Sanad.

Sir Jawansingji's reign was in 1868 A. D., cut short by his death at an early age of 38. He was succeeded by his son Keshrising.

MAHARAJA SIR KESHRISING K. C. S. I. (1868-1901 A. D.)

Maharaja Keshrisingji came on the Gadi at the age of 7 years and so the State was taken under Agency management and the young Maharaja

was sent to the Rajkumar College, Rajkot, for education. The Maharaja attended the Delhi Darbar in 1877 A. D. and after finishing his training in the College, he was put on the Gadi in 1882 A. D. by Colonel Woodhouse. In 1887 A. D. the Maharaja was given the title of Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. The Maharaja was successful in introducing some reforms in his State. He gave scholarships to some students of his State, who resided for their education in Bombay. Due to ill health he was unable to move out of his capital. He died on the 20th February, 1901 A. D. of heart failure.

Colonel Ferris then proceeded to Idar and took the State under management as one of the Maharanis was found to be enceinte. The administration was conducted by him in the name of 'Shri Darbar Idar State'.

Maharani Chowhanji gave birth to a son on the 4th October, 1901, who was named Krishnasinhji. The infant Maharaja died on the 30th November, 1901. Colonel G. B. O'Donnel was then appointed Administrator of the State till the 12th February, 1902 on which date Colonel Sir Pratapsinghji was installed on the Gadi.

THE MAHARAJA MAJOR GENERAL SIR PRATAPSINGHJI (1902-1921 A. D.)

Sir Pratapsinghji was recognised by the Government of India as a successor to the Idar Gadi in November 1901 A. D., on the death of the infant son of Maharaja Keshrisinghji. Sir Pratapsinghji's father, Takhatsinghji, was the last Raja of Ahmednagar and was adopted to the Jodhpur Gadi after the death of Mansingh. Sir Pratapsinghji enjoyed the rank of Honorary Major-General in the British Army. He had served in the Tirah Campaign and the Mohmad Expedition and the Command of the Imperial Service Lancers in the China. He was made a Knight Commander of the Most Noble Order of the Bath and a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. He was also Honorary LL D. of the University of Cambridge. Sir Pratapsinghji before his succession to the Idar Gadi for a long time carried on the administration of Jodhpur. In June 1911, Sir Pratapsinghji abdicated the Idar Gadi in favour of his adopted son Kumar Dolatsinghji consequent on his appointment as Regent of the Jodhpur State during the minority of Maharaja Samarsingh.

The adoption by Pratapsingh of Maharaj Kumar Dolatsingh, son of his brother Maharaja Madhavsingh as his son and heir, to the Idar Raj, was approved and sanctioned by the Government of India in April 1903 on the usual condition that Dolatsingh will succeed to the Idar Gadi provided no legitimate son is hereafter born to the Maharaja. The Maharaj Kumar was allowed to carry on the administration under the supervision of Pratapsinghji.

A satisfactory separation was made of the interests of Darbar and the Thakor of Posina in the co-shared estate of Posina, and the boundary line with Dungarpur, which had for many years been in dispute and a constant source of trouble to the Agencies on both sides, was finally settled by Major Chenevix Trench.

In 1909 A. D., Government bestowed another honour in the shape of an increase of two guns as personal distinction. In 1910 A. D., the administration work was transferred to the Maharaj Kumar.

On the 26th March, 1911 A. D. Champawat Dipsing was deposed and declared unfit to hold the Tintoi Patta during the rest of his life and the said Patta was placed under management of a Darbar Japti Officer. In August, 1910 A. D., the administration of the Idar State was put in hands of the Maharaj Kumar and distributed under five general heads, *viz*., the Chief Secretary, the Revenue Secretary, the Home Secretary and the Military Secretary.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MAHARAJA DOLATSINGHJI

The Ruler Maharaja Dolatsinghji, in his 42nd year, succeeded to the Gadi on its abdication by his father, Major-General Sir Pratapsinghji and assumed the reins of the State on 21st July, 1911 A. D., on which day the formal installation ceremony was performed. Dolatsinghji had three sons. The eldest Maharaj Kumar Shri Himatsinghji was the heir-apparent. In December, 1972 A. D., Maharaja replaced the old system and established the Central Distillery System to be worked under State supervision and management. Mr. C. S. Middlemiss made a geological survey and discovered Steatite and Asbestos in the Meghraj taluka. The Ahmedabad-Prantij Railway joining the south-west portion of the State with Ahmedabad had its terminus at Himatnagar. The extension from Himatnagar to Khedbrahma was opened to the public traffic on 1st July, 1911 A. D. In 1912 A. D., the Sir George Clarke Leper Asylum at Bhavanath was founded. The water and silt of the tank attached to the God Shiva's temple at this ancient place of Hindu pilgrimage has long been considered to possess the remarkable property of curing that dreaded disease known as leprosy. The old and historic name of the capital was changed from Ahmednagar to Himatnagar after the name of heir-apparent. Maharaja offered his personal services with those of His Imperial Despatch Riders in World War I in Europe, which were accepted. During Maharaja's absence, on active service, Maharaja's powers were exercised by Maharaniji Saheba under the general supervision of the Political Agent.

Maharaja Shri Himmatsinghji was born on 2nd September, 1899 A. D. and ascended the Gadi on 14th April, 1931 A. D. Maharaja was educated at

Mayo College, Ajmer from where he passed his Diploma Examination in the year 1916 and stood first among the successful candidates from all the Chief Colleges in India, winning the Viceroy's Medal. He accompanied Maharaja Sir Dowlatsinghji to Europe when the latter went to attend the Coronation of the King Emperor in London and acted as a page to His Imperial Majesty. Maharaja had two sons. The elder one, Maharaja Kumar Shree Daljitsingh, who was the heir-apparent, the younger son, Maharaj Kumar Shree Amarsinghji, was born on 4th October, 1919 A. D. Maharaja Himmatsinghji continued to rule till the State was finally merged in the Indian Union. The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 3,28,000.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 and, therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently, the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 for the abolition of privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Ahmednagar

The Ahmednagar taluka was next in size to that of Idar and, as it has been shown in the history of Idar State, the two families were nearly related to each other, the father of Maharaja Takhtsingji of Jodhpur being a second cousion of the Raja of Idar. Ahmednagar was formerly a part of Idar, and bestowed by Maharaja Shivsingji, on his second son, Sagramsing, the Chief who was supposed to have instigated his younger brothers, Zalimsing and Amirsing to murder their nephew Gambhirsing, then a boy fourteen years old.

On their flight from Idar, the two younger brothers, with the assistance of Sagramsing, seized upon the Parganas of Modasa and Bayad and maintained possession of them in defiance of all the exortions of Gambhirsing to dispossess them. A very intimate connection appears to have always existed between the three brothers, who knowing how little they had to expect from their nephew, owing to their own bad conduct, united cordially together, and proved too strong for the attempts of Gambhirsing. When Sagramsing died, Zalimsing of Modasa took charge of his son, reared him to manhood, and then placed him in charge of his estates. On the death of Zalimsing in the attempt of Amaliara, his widow, supported by Ahmednagar and Bayad, adopted as her child Pratapsing, the youngest brother of the Ahmednagar Raja : this adoption was disputed by Idar, who claimed the estate as head of the family and through the Baroda Darbar caused it to be restored again. It was,

however, eventually, through the influence of the Resident at Baroda, and the Collector of Ahmedabad, returned to Pratapsing, upon whose death without heirs, it went to Ahmednagar, by the adoption of the Raja's eldest son, who afterwards succeeded his father and thus kept both.

Amirsing of Bayad dying in the year 1823 A. D. without a male issue, both Idar and Ahmednagar laid claims to the vacant Pata, and after long dispute about their respective rights, the deed of partition already mentioned was entered into ; Ahmednagar resigning Kunthaloo Bara in favour of Idar, on condition of that State relinquishing all further claims on Modasa and Bayad being divided between them, two-thirds to Idar and one-third to Ahmednagar.

Karimsing, Raja of Ahmednagar, died in the year 1835 A. D., leaving two sons, Prithising and Takhtsing. It was on this occasion that the forcible *sati* alluded to have occurred. Mr. Erskine, then endeavoured by persuation to prevent the intended *sati* from taking place ; but having reason to suspect that the authorities were merely temporising until a sufficient force had been collected to enable them to carry their wishes into execution, he attempted to disarm a numerous band of Kolis about to enter the town. In the attempt an Officer, Lieutenant Lewis, was wounded, the gates were closed, and the walls manned which compelled the small detachment to move to a short distance out of reach of the fire from the walls. At midnight, the females, with corpse of the Raja, were taken through bye-paths, and out of one of the breaches in the wall, to where the pyre was prepared, and the ceremony hurried over, after which all the parties concerned in the rite fled to the hills.

Prithising and Takhtsing were the first to avail themselves of the general amnesty proclaimed by Government in 1836 A. D. Their possessions were restored to them on their renouncing the practice of *sati* in their families, and engaging not to entertain foreign mercenaries.

Prithising died on the 6th December, 1839 A. D., leaving one of his widows *enceinte*, who gave birth to a son. Owing to the praiseworthy exertions of Takhtsing, the widows of the deceased Raja were dissuaded from burning themselves with their husband's corpse. Government, on becoming aware of his laudable endeavours in the cause of humanity, marked its sense of his conduct by a suitable present. The infant Raja dying during the reign of 1841 A. D. Takhtsing, who had upto that time acted as Regent, succeeded as next-of-kin to the vacant Gadi.

The death of the Raja of Jodhpur without male issue, in the year 1843 A. D., led to numerous intrigues which subsequently ended in the adoption of Takhtsing to the throne of Marwar, to the exclusion of Idar, the senior branch of the family. The success which attended the

Ahmednagar intrigues may perhaps be attributed to the supineness of the Idar Darbar, who trusting in the protection afforded by the attachment, might have neglected to use the means necessary to conciliate those interested in the adoption at Jodhpur.

On the departure of the Maharaja (Takhtsing) for Jodhpur, the Ahmednagar taluka with its dependencies was placed under attachment and, it was finally decided by the Government of India, in the year 1848 A. D., that the Idar and Ahmednagar principalities should be re-united under the Raja of Idar.

Bolundra

Bolundra, in the Rehwar district, had an area of 6 square miles, and a yearly revenue of about Rs. 2,500. The Bolundra Chiefs, Rehvar Rajputs, ranking in the Seventh Class, were the descendant of a younger branch of the Ranasan family. The Thakor traced his descent from Thakor Jivandas, who about the year 1724 A. D., obtained the Bolundra estate for maintenance from the Thakor of Ranasan. Thakor Jalamsinghji succeeded in1858 A. D., and on his death was succeeded by Manaji. Salamsinghji, and Budhsinghji enjoyed the revenue *Vahivat* only. He was a tributary talukdar paying a yearly sum of Rs. 133-14-4 to the Idar Raj. The family held no Sanad of adoption. In matters of succession, it followed the rule of primogeniture.

The Thakor of Bolundra accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III) and after the merger of this estate with the Bombay State, the Thakor became the Jagirdar with effect from 1st August, 1954, the Jagir was abolished by the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

Kadoli

Kadoli, with two villages, in the Sabarkantha, had an annual revenue of about Rs. 2,052. The Talukdar was a Makwana Koli, paying an yearly tribute of Rs. 513 to the Gaekwad as *ghasdana* and Rs. 93 to the Maharaja of Idar as *khichadi*. His family followed the rule of primogeniture. It did not hold a Sanad of adoption.

The Thakor Kubersinhji was born on 26th July, 1888 A. D., and succeeded to the Gadi on 14th June, 1914 A. D. He was educated at the Scott College, Sadra. He exercised the following jurisdictional powers :

Civil	...	To the extent of Rs. 500.
Criminal	...	Three months' rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 200.

The Thakor of Kadoli accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III), and after the merger of this estate with the Bombay State, the Thakor became the Jagirdar with effect from Ist August, 1954. The Jagir was abolished by the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

Hapa

Hapa was a Sixth Class Taluka. It had an area of 5 square miles. The history of the taluka is as follows :—Raja Bhoj was the eighth in descent from Vikram (Vikram the great, the Chakravati Emperor of Malwa). Raja Bhoj was the most distinguished ruler of Dhar. He had two sons, Dharmidas and Udedat. Udedat succeeded him in Dhar and Dharmidas left Dhar and went to Marwar where he conquered the fortress of Kheralu. He had nine sons, who founded nine forts. Out of them Asuji founded Nagarparkar. His sons Mehedaji, Verisalji, Ranoji, Jagraji, Sodaji (who is the founder of Soda family), Ujoji. Govindji, Chandan Soda, Sayarji, Jogidasji, Chopoparmalji Ranji and Mujoji, owing to severe famine left Nagarparkar and went to Tokra (Kathiawar), 7 miles from Wadhwan. At that time, Vishaldev Vaghela was ruling there. Vishaldev's brother-in-law Sobhat Rajput went out hunting. He took refuge in Mujoji's camp who refused to hand it over and so a quarrel arose in which Sobhat Rajput was killed. As Vishaldev was unable to oppose Mujoji, he agreed to give him the four talukas of Muli, Than, Chotila and Kundana provided he captured Pagi Asha of Asarva. Pagi Asha was seized and delivered up. Mujoji had five sons, *viz.*, Dadaji, Vagoji, Nanoji, Vikramdev and Dhiratsinghji. Dhiratsinghji had two sons, *viz.*, Vikramdev and Prathisinghji. Vikramdev, had two sons, *viz.*, Vishaldev and Umedji. Vishaldev leaving Muli went to Kosamkotda situated on the bank of the river Sabarmati and founded Vijapur in his name. He had a son named Isingji and whose sons were Sujaji and Sarangji. When the Emperor's army invaded Vijapur under the command of Behol Rajputs, Shjaji leaving Vijapur went to Ladol where he took refuge in the house of a Pagi named Lada. He married Lada's daughter and later having killed the Sumras and the Dabhis of Morvada made Morvada his capital. Ravanji conquered Tajpuri and made it his capital Arjanji conquered Hapa in Samvat 1510 on Vaisakh Sud 2nd from the Pagis (Thakardas) and made his capital there. The Talukdar Vakhatsinghji was the son of Fatehsinghji. He had three sons, *viz.*, Mulsinghji, Himatsinghji and Bhagvatsinghji. He himself was educated at the Scott College, Sadra and later worked under the supervision of the late Captain Carter, the then Assistant Political Agent Mahikantha. Thakor Vakhatsinghji of Hapa, who belonged to the Sixth Class, was invested with the powers of a Fifth Class Talukdar as a mark of personal distinction, in 1919 A. D. Kumar Mulsinghji, the heir-apparent died on the 8th November, 1920 A. D. His family followed the rule of primogeniture, but did not hold a Sanad of adoption.

The late Thakor Vakhatsinhji died on 4th February, 1931 A. D., and he was succeeded by heir-apparent Kumar Shri Himatsinghji. He was installed on Gadi on 9th May, 1935 A. D. The Thakor was married to the grand-daughter of Thakor Juvansinhji of Padusan. The Thakor's youngest sister Kunvri Kesarba was married to the minor Thakor Sursinhji of Sathamba in 1935 A. D. Heir-apparent Kumar Shri Lakhdhirsinhji was born on 6th September, 1936 A. D.

The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 2,560. In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970, but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970, and, therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment), Bill in 1971, for the abolition of privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Dabha

The Mians of Dabha, taking rank in the Fifth Class, were like the Chiefs of Punadra, Makwana Kolis converted to Islam, and followed a mixed Mahomedan and Hindu religion. They gave their daughters in marriage to Mahomedans of rank, and married the daughters of Koli Chiefs. They bury their dead. In 1823 A. D., Colonel Ballantyne interfered in the dispute between Dabha and Amliyara and Naharmian got 5 populated villages and Balamian was given 5 deserted villages by Nathusinghji of Amliyara. Naharmian established himself at Ramas in 1822 A. D., and Balamian established at Dabha. In 1839 A. D., the *ghasdana ankda* was fixed at Rs. 150. Balamian died in 1845 A. D., and was succeeded by his son, Gulabmian, who incurred large debts during his time and the estate was taken under management in 1892 A. D. Gulabmian died in 1893 A. D., and Motamian came on the Gadi. In 1898 A. D., Motamian was given full powers, but like his father incurred debts and the taluka was again put under management in 1915 A. D. The management had, however, been removed and the taluka was handed over to Miyan then called Thakor Mohobatsinghji with full powers appertaining to the taluka.

The Thakor Mohobatsinghji died on 26th December, 1936 A. D., and was succeeded by the Thakor Balusinghji who was born on 24th April, 1893 A. D, and was educated at the Scott College, Sadra. He was installed on Gadi on the 3rd May, 1937 A. D., and was invested with the powers of the Taluka as under

Civil	...	To the extent of Rs. 1,000.
Criminal	...	Six month's rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 250.

The Thakor of Dabha accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III) and after the merger of this estate with the State of Bombay, the Thakor became the Jagirdar with effect from 1st August, 1954. The Jagir was abolished by the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

Rupal

The Thakors of Rupal, ranking in the Fifth Class of Mahi Kantha Chiefs, were Rehvar Rajputs of the Indra race, descended from the same stock as Mohanpur Thakors. Their seat was at Rupal, the principal town of the State. Fatehsinghji got the *ghasdana* sum reduced after giving great trouble to the surrounding villages of the Baroda State. The Sardar of Mudeti took Rupal in 1834 A. D., but Fatehsinghji surrendered himself to the British Government and was given back the taluka. Himatsinghji intrigued with the Thakrani of Amliyara and was kept in the Ahmedabad Jail where he died in Samvat 1900. Pratapsinghji succeeded his father Himatsinghji but died in 1847 A. D. His son Mansinghji came on the Gadi. He died in 1896 A. D., and was succeeded by his son Hamirsinghji. He was charged with abetting the murder of Navalsinghji, a Jiwakdar of Dhudhar. He was, therefore, deprived of the management of his taluka which was kept under Agency Management. The Talukdar, Thakor Shri Takhatsinhji, was born on 30th November, 1883 A. D., and succeeded to the Gadi on 3rd July, 1935 A. D., with powers appertaining to his taluka. The talukdar exercised the following jurisdictional powers :

Criminal	...	Six months' rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 250.
Civil	...	Up to Rs. 1,000.

The family held no deed allowing adoption In matters of succession, it followed the rule of primogeniture.

At the time of merger of the State, the Thakor accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III). The Thakor thus had become the Jagirdar. This Jagir of Rupal was, however, abolished by the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953 with effect from 1st August, 1954.

Dadhalia

The Thakors of Dadhalia, were placed in the Fifth Class, and were Sisodia Rajputs from Udepur and Rajputana. About the middle of the seventeenth century, Vahaji the first Thakor, with a body of horse entered the service of Kalianamal, Rao of Idar, who gave him a grant, *patta*, of the

Bayad sub-division of forty-two towns and villages. Vahaji afterwards asked for a further grant and was in 1674 A. D., presented with Dadhalia and six other Bhil villages. About fifty years later (1731 A. D.), when the Jodhpur princes, Raising and Anandsing assumed the Government of Idar, the Dadhalia chief refused to serve under them, and the Bayad estate was taken from him. Thakor Jaswantsinghji who was 21 degrees remote from Vahaji was given the Gadi. He had two sons, Amarsinghji and Gangsinghji. The taluka was deprived of its jurisdiction in 1901 A. D., but Amarsinghji was given the Gadi in 1915 A. D. Thakor Shri Amarsinghji died on the 18th May, 1940 A. D. and the taluka was placed under Agency Management on account of the minority of the Thakor Takhatsinhji, who was born on the 25th August, 1933 A. D He was educated at home by engaging a private tutor. The Manager exercised the following jurisdictional powers of the taluka.

Criminal	..	Six months' rigorous imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 250.
Civil	...	Upto the value of Rs. 1,000.

He died in 1965 A. D. His family held no deed of adoption. In matters of succession, it followed the rule of primogeniture.

At the time of merger, the Thakor of the State had accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III). The Thakor, therefore, had become the Jagirdar. The Dadhalia Jagir has been abolished by the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953 with effect from 1st August, 1954.

Prempur

The Prempur estate had five villages in the Sabarkantha Thana. The Sabarkantha Thandar enjoyed the jurisdiction over this taluka. Himatsinghji got Prempur when the estate acquired by Bathiji was divided among his heirs. When Talukdar Harisinghji attained majority, the taluka had been handed over to him with the revenue jurisdiction. The Thakor Harisinhji was born on 31st March, 1900 A. D. and succeeded to the Gadi on 5th January, 1916 A. D. He enjoyed the powers of a third class Magistrate as a personal distinction. His family followed the rule of primogeniture, but did not hold a Sanad of adoption.

At the time of merger the Thakor of the Prempur had accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III). The Thakor became Jagirdar with effect from 10th June, 1948. The Prempur Jagir was abolished with effect from 1st August, 1954 by the Bombay Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

Derol

The Derol estate had three villages, in the Sabarkantha. One of the ancestors Vijaypal was a Makwana Rajput, a descendant of his Makwana Bhathi. He came to Dedhrota, married a Khant Koli woman and obtained Derol from the Kolis. The Chief was placed in the Sixth Class. He was a Makwana Koli paying yearly Rs. 513 to the Gaekwad as *ghasdana* and Rs. 46 to the Idar State as *khichadi*. His family followed the rule of primogeniture, but did not hold a Sanad of adoption.

At the time of merger of this State with the State of Bombay, the Thakor accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III), and became Jagirdar with effect from 10th June, 1948. The Derol Jagir was abolished with effect from 1st August, 1954.

Ramas

Ramas, with nine villages, on the Vatrak river in the Vatrak Kantha thana had an area of 9·6 kms. The State was bounded on the north and the west by Amliyara taluka, on the east by the Bayad Paragna of Idar on the south by the villages of Vatrak Kantha thana. The Thakors of Ramas, taking rank in the Sixth Class, were like the Chiefs of Punadra, Makwana Kolis converted to Islam, and like them, observed a mixed Mahomedan and Hindu religions. Their seat was at Ramas, the chief town of the estate. Naharmian was given 5 populated villages in 1811-12 A. D., under the guarantee of Colonel Ballantyne. He made Ramas his capital. Kalumian died in 1900 A. D., without leaving a son and so his brother Nathumian's son Udesinghji was recognised as heir in 1900 A. D. The Taluka remained under management during his minority and was restored to Udesing in 1913 A. D. The Talukdar was then addressed as 'Thakor' instead of 'Miyan'. Thakor Mansinhji was installed on the Gadi on 14th December, 1933 A. D. He was born on the 14th August, 1912 A. D. He was educated at the Scott College, Sadra. He had married the daughter of the Solanki clan of Rajputs of Thakor Dolatsing of Vallampur. The Thakrani gave birth to an heir-apparent on the 10th January, 1938 A. D. He exercised the following jurisdictional powers :

Civil	...	To the extent of Rs. 500.
Criminal	..	Three months' rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 200

The family held no Sanad of adoption. In matters of succession it followed the rule of primogeniture.

At the time of merger, the Thakor accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III), and became Jagirdar. The Ramas Jagir was

abolished with effect from 1st August, 1954 under the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

Vadagam

Vadagam is on the banks of Mazum river. The Thakors of Vadagam, were placed in the rank of Fifth Class of Mahi Kantha Chiefs, and were Rehvar Rajputs of the Indra race. They descended from the same stock as the Mohanpur Thakors. Their seat was at Vadagam, the chief town of the taluka. The family held no deed allowing adoption. In matters of succession, it followed the rule of primogeniture. Hathisinghji succeeded Gulabsinghji and on his death in 1820 A. D., Dolatsinghji came on the Gadi. He was succeeded by Jalamsinghji and Rajsinghji. Rajsinghji was given *dankanishan* by Khanderao Gaekwad and gold anklet by Jhodhpur Maharaja. As Rajsinghji had no son, he adopted Gulabsinghji, son of his brother Gokalsinghji, which adoption was sanctioned by Government in 1890 A. D. Rajsinghji died in 1892 A. D., and was succeeded by Gulabsinghji who died on 14th December, 1907 A. D. His son Dipsinghji came on the Gadi on 7th May, 1908 A. D., and died on 16th April, 1910 A. D. As he had no son, his brother Jiwatsinghji came on the Gadi on 29th November, 1912 A. D.

Bhayat Gopalsinghji Kesarisinghji succeeded Shri Jiwatsinghji. On the death of Gopalsinghji his son Vakhatsinghji succeeded to *Gadi* on 29th August, 1938. The minor Kumar Shri Natwarsinghji the brother of Vakhatsinghji came on *gadi* in 1943 A. D. His succession was recognised by the Government.

He was invested with the powers of 3rd Class Magistrate. He was empowered to hear civil suits upto the value of Rs. 250. One village called Lalino math was given in Dharmada to the Bava of that village. The Thakor Vakhatsinghji was born on 17th November, 1918 A. D. He succeeded to the Gadi on 29th August, 1938 A. D. Owing to the minority of the Kumar Natwarsinghji the taluka was under Agency management. Thereafter, Vadagam was merged in Sabarkantha.

The Thakor accepted the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III), at the time of the merger of the State with the State of Bombay, and became Jagirdar with effect from 10th June, 1948. The Vadagam Jagir was abolished with effect from 1st August, 1954 under the Bombay Merger Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

Magodi

The Thakors of Magodi, Rathod Rajputs, belonged to a younger branch of the Malpur family and ranked in the Fifth Class of Mahi Kantha Chiefs.

They traced their descent from Ramsinghji second son of Govindsinghji, second Raval of Malpur who obtained the Magodi estate as a maintainance about the year 1537 A. D., when his elder brother Panchsinghji, third Raval of Malpur, succeeded to the Malpur Chieftainship. Himatsinghji came on the Gadi on the death of his father Fatehsinghji. He was succeeded by Mokawsinghji and then by Takhatsinghji. On the death of Takhatsinghji in 1913 A. D., his son Jaswantsing came on the Gadi, but he being a minor, the estate came under Agency Management. On the death of Thakor Jaswantsinghji in the month of August 1933 A. D., his only son K. S. Pravinchandrasinhji, born on 23rd January, 1927 A. D. succeeded to the Gadi, but as he was a minor, the taluka was under Agency management. The minor Thakor was studying in the "Kathiawar Public School" or "Rajkumar College". The manager exercised the following jurisdictional powers of the taluka :

Civil	...	Suits up to the value of Rs. 1,000.
Criminal	...	Six months' rigorous imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 250.

The taluka paid Rs. 93-1-10 as *khichdi* to Idar State, but owing to dispute, it was not paid. The family held no deed of adoption.

The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 6,700.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D., but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 and therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently, the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 for abolition of privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Khedawada

Khedawada, with four villages, in the Sabarkantha has the same history as Derol and was a branch of that family. Vajesing died in 1894 A. D., and was succeeded by Thakor Vakhatsinghji. He died in 1901 A. D., and was succeeded by his brother, Becharsinghji. The Thakor Becharsinghji was born on the 29th June, 1892 A. D. and succeeded to the Gadi on 12th June, 1902 A. D. He was educated at the Scott College, Sadra. He enjoyed the following enhanced jurisdictional powers as a mark of personal distinction :

Civil	...	Up to Rs. 500.
Criminal	...	Up to six months' rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 250.

At the time of merger of this State with the State of Bombay the Thakor of Khedawada accepted, the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III), and became Jagirdar with effect from 10th June, 1948. The Khedawada Jagir was abolished with effect from 1st August, 1954 by the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

Mohanpur

The Thakor of Mohanpur was placed in the third class rank and was a Rehwar Rajput of the Indra race. He descended from the Raos of Chandrawati near Mount Abu. His ancestor Jaspal emigrated from Chandrawati to Hadol in the Mahi Kantha in 1227 A. D., and thereafter in the thirteenth generation, Thakor Prathuraj moved to Ghodvada, received a grant of that village and the neighbouring districts, which in course of time was divided among the different branches of the family. Of the origin of the Rehvar Patavatas, the following account is given. The Rehvar Rajputs were Parmars and came originally from Ujjain. They had since changed their place of abode successively to Parkar, the Abu mountain, and lastly to Taranga from all of which places they seems to have been expelled They took possession of Taranga in 1226 A. D. Their deeds, *patas*, were derived from the former Raos of Idar, and their dependence on the Raja of Idar was limited to the payment of *khichdi*. The name Rehvar is said to be derived from the following circumstance. One of their great ancestors at Abu living on his way to take charge of his bride, stopped to pay his devotions at temple of the Devi. As his future father-in-law intended to kill him, the Goddess out of compassion is reported to have said *reh var, i. e., bridegroom go no further. He remained and* those who went were all murdered. Thakor Harisingh the brother of Kasamdas suppressed the oppression of the neighbouring villages of Idar, and so he was given the Tana of Hathrol and 22 villages. In this way, Harisinghji was the founder of the Mohanpur taluka and the village of Mohanpur was populated by Mundasji, one of his ancestors. The notorious Koli, Chanpla Hohadia was harassing the Idar State. Mundasji succeeded in killing Chanpla and the village of Jamla was given as Inam by the Idar State. Mundasji also arrested the Ravalji of Dungupur. Mundasji died at the age of 70. He was succeeded by Manordasji, Sodhsinghji, Dalji and Jitsinghji in succession. In 1714 A. D., Jalamsinghji succeeded Jitasinghji, but he died without an heir and so his brother Abhesinghji came on the Gadi. He died in 1793 A. D. As he had no son, Thakor Hindusinghji Prathisinghji of Sardoi came on the Gadi of Mohanpur in 1795 A. D. When Maharaja Jamalsinghji of Ahmednagar came to know of this he looted Sardoi. He tried to conquer Mohanpur but failed. In 1801 A. D. Thakor Hindusinghji died and his son Salamsinghji came on the Gadi. When the British Government took over Mahi Kantha, Rajsinghji died in 1850 A. D., and Dolatsinghji came on the Gadi and on his death, Umedsinghji succeeded him. Kumar Himatsinghji was educated at the

Rajkumar College and succeeded to the Gadi in 1882 A. D., on the death of Umedsinghji. Himatsinghji was entrusted with the Taluka in May, 1894 A. D., after an Agency Management of 12 years during his minority. This Thakor was of very weak mind and no improvement was made in his time. The taluka had to be taken under management in 1905 A. D., on account of the misconduct of Thakor Himatsinghji and the consequent mismanagement and indebtedness of the estate. Thakor Shri Sartansinhji was born on the 6th February, 1886 A. D., and succeeded to the Gadi in 1927 A. D. He enjoyed the following jurisdictional powers :

Civil ...	suits upto Rs. 1,000.
Criminal Powers ...	3 years rigorous imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 5,000.

The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 15,310 (provisionally).

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D. but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 A. D. and therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently, the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 A. D., for abolition of privy purses and privileges of the Rulers.

Ilol

The Thakor was a Makwana Koli, who claimed descent from Makwana Rajputs. Eleven generations ago, Makwana Bhati came to the neighbourhood of Dedhrota and married the daughter of a Koli. From him were sprung the families of Ilol, Derol, etc. The date is definately not known, but as the Makwana was a branch of the Jhala tribe, it was probable that the settlement of these Chiefs and those of Khadal and Punadra took place in the fourteenth century when the Jhalas were driven by the Kathis out of Halar in Kathiawar. Thakor Dipsinghji succeeded Naharsinghji. On his death, he was succeeded by Vakhatsinghji and the taluka was taken under management owing to the minority of the Thakor. The Thakor received his education in the Rajkumar College, Rajkot and on his assuming charge of the administration, he made many improvements. In his time, the status of the taluka was raised to the Third Class as a mark of personal distinction. Thakor Vakhatsinghji died in 1898 A. D. without leaving any heir. Thakor Mansinghji succeeded to the taluka on the death of his cousin, Thakor Vakhatsinghji. As Mansighji was illiterate, the jurisdiction was enjoyed by the Sabarkantha Thandar and the Thakor had only revenue powers. The Thakor succeeded to the taluka in 1899 A. D., and

died in 1902 A. D. He was succeeded by his son Vajesinghji who being minor, the estate remained under Agency Management. He assumed the administration in February 1916 A. D., after completing his education. He was an intelligent Thakor and managed the estate well. The powers of the Thakor had been raised to those equal to Third Class Chief as a mark of personal distinction. It may be further mentioned that the Thakor Shri Shivsinhji Vajesinghji was born on 31st December, 1910 A. D., and succeeded to the Gadi on 18th October, 1927 A. D. He went to England in February, 1931 A. D., for study. He was invested with the powers appertaining to the State on 1st April, 1935 A. D. An heir-apparent was born on 30th July, 1938 A. D. The family held no sanad allowing adoption and in matters of succession it followed the rule of primogeniture.

The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 8,750.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D., but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 A. D., and therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 A. D.

Ranasan

The ruling family belonged to the Rehwar Rajputs of the Indra race and descended from the Raos of Chandravati near the Mount Abu. Early in the thirteenth century, *i. e.*, 1227 A. D., their ancestor Jaspal moved from Chandravati to Hadol in Mahikantha and from thence in the thirteenth generation, Thakor Prithiraj moved to Ghorwada, having received that and the neighbouring districts. In course of time these were divided into different branches, of which Ranasan was one.

The estate was founded by Rajsinghji, grandson of Shivaji, whose account has already been given in the history of Mohanpur. Rajsinghji rendered good service to the Idar State. He was succeeded by his son Sursinghji and the second son, Keshavdasji succeeded the estate of Vadagam. Sursinghji suppressed the turbulent Bhils of Modasa and Prantij and levied certain *haks* on the neighbouring villages. He was succeeded by Sarvarsinghji and Adesinghji. Jiwanji got Bolundra in Jiwai. Bharatsinghji succeeded Adesinghji and in his time, Idar exacted the right of *khichdi*. Kumarsinghji came on the Gadi in 1768 A. D., and died in 1802 A. D. The British connection was established in the time of Makansinghji, who suppressed highway robbery. He died in 1828 A. D. Makansinghji was succeeded by Raisinghji ahd Lalsinghji by turn. As Lalsinghji had no son, he was succeeded by his uncle's son Sartansinghji. Thakor Kisorsinghji succeeded to the Gadi in July, 1890 A. D. He was born in 1869 A. D. He

was not the direct heir and so his succession was recognized by Government in 1890 A. D., on payment of a Nazarana of Rs. 4,000. Thakor Kisorsingh died in April, 1914 A. D., Prithisinghji, a Bhayat was recognized as the successor by Government. He died in August, 1917 A. D. Thakor Takhatsinghji was recognized as the successor and was put on the Gadi on 12th November, 1917 A. D. Thakor Shri Jaswantsinghji was born on 3rd February, 1916 A. D. He was invested with the powers pertaining to the State on 2nd December, 1938 A. D. He was educated at the Scott College, Sadra and the Daly College, Indore. He exercised the following jurisdictional powers.

Criminal ...	One year's rigorous imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 500.
Civil ...	To hear suits upto Rs. 2,500.

The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 17,000.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 and therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently, the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 A. D., for abolition of the privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Malpur

The Malpur Ravals were ranked first of the Third Class of Mahi Kantha Chiefs and were Rathod Rajputs, an offshoot from the family of the Raos of Idar. Virajmal, a younger son of Kiratsinghji, seventh Rao of Idar, was provided with a grant of land, and in 1344 A. D., his grandson Khanadji established himself at Man and his grandson Randhirsinghji moved from Man to Modasa. It was not till 1466 A. D., that Raval Vaghsinghji the great grandson of Randhirsinghji of Modasa, and eighth in descent from Virajmal settled at Malpur. At that time Malpur was ruled by a Bhil Chief named Malom Khant. A Brahman of Malpur had a beautiful daughter whom Malom Khant wished to marry. After trying every means in his power to dissuade Malom Khant the Brahman fled to Modasa and begged the assistance of the ruling Chief Vaghsinghji, who shortly afterwards attacked and conquered Malpur, where his descendants subsequently ruled as Ravals. In 1780 A. D., during the reign of Indrasinghji, Fatehsingh Gaekwad attacked and captured Malpur and took away its gates and since then the Ravals of Malpur had paid the Gaekwad a yearly tribute, *Ghasdana*. In 1796 A. D., Jamalsingh of Modasa attacked Malpur and killed the ruling Raval, whose name was also Jamalsingh. Nor was his son Takhtsing allowed to succeed till he had given up one half of the

Modasa tribute, *chauth*, and consented to commute the other half for a money payment under the head of *giras*. In 1816 A. D., during the reign of Raval Takhtsing the Maharaja of Idar stayed at Malpur and since then the Ravals paid Idar a tribute, *khichdi*. Raval Shivsinghji came to the Gadi. He was twenty two generations from Kiratsinghji, the seventh Rao of Idar.

Shivsinghji died in 1882 A. D., and was succeeded by his son Dipsinghji in April, 1882 A. D. The State was kept under Agency Management during the minority of the Thakor. The Ravalji took personal interest in the management of the taluka. He was an intelligent and amiable Chief. During the year 1898-99 A. D. Government were pleased to allow him to be addressed in correspondence as Ravalji Shri. In 1903-04 A. D., a new school was opened in Ubhran. Ravalji Shri Dipsinghji died, on the 25th February, 1914 A. D. Kumar Jaswantsinghji whose succession was recognized by Government in 1914 A. D., was invested with the powers appertaining to his taluka on the 2nd May, 1914 A. D. Afterwards the powers of the Chief had been raised in criminal matters upto 7 years and civil upto Rs. 20,000 and appellate powers of the Political Agent in civil matters in all cases and in criminal matters so far only as summary trials under Criminal Procedure Code were concerned and Revisional powers of the Commissioner, N. D. in criminal matters in the above mentioned cases had been withdrawn as a personal distinction. The Ruler Raolji Shri Gambhirsinhji Himatsinhji was born on the 27th October, 1914 A. D. He was educated at the Scott College, Sadra, and the Mayo College, Ajmer. He succeeded to the Gadi in 1923 A. D., and was first married with the eldest Rajkumari of Rajaji Shri Pratapsinhji of Khandela, Jaipur State, and secondly with the second Rajkumari of the Maharaja Kumar of Khandu, Banswara State. His only sister was married to the heir-apparent Kumar Shri Khusalsinhji of Lasani under the Udepur State. He was invested with the powers pertaining to the State on the 16th February, 1935 A. D. He exercised the following jurisdictional powers :

Criminal ... Three years' rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 5,000.

Civil .. To the extent of Rs. 10,000.

The Chief was given additional powers as a personal distinction to inflict rigorous imprisonment and to inflict fine amounting to Rs. 20,000. The State followed the rule of primogeniture. Shri Gambhirsinghji died on 11th May, 1969 A. D., leaving no heir behind him. The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 40,600.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D. but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 and

therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently, the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 for abolition of the privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Sathamba

The Thakors of Sathamba, were placed in the Fifth Class of Mahi Kantha Chiefs. They were Bariya Kolis, originally from Sindh, who held Patdi, when Ala-u'd-din (1297 A. D.), came to Gujarat. Driven from Patdi they took refuge with the Raja of Champaner, who gave them a grant, *jagir* of Bariya. From Bariya one of the family, in the time of Mahomad Begada, got possession of Sathamba. The seat of the Thakor was at Sathamba, the chief town of the taluka. The family held no deed allowing adoption. In matters of succession it followed the rule of primogeniture.

The Chief Ratansing succeeded to the taluka on the death of his father Vajesinghji in 1918 A. D. He died on 28th December, 1933 A. D., leaving behind four sons and three daughters. The eldest son K. S. Sursinhji who was born on 26th September, 1920 A. D., was recognised as the heir to the Gadi. The taluka was under Agency Management. It was released when K. S. Sursinhji attained majority. The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 18,800.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D., but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 A. D. and, therefore, the privy purses had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 A. D., for the abolition of the privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Dedhrota

Dedhrota, had two villages. It was situated on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati river. The founder of this house was Vijaypal, a Makwana Koli. The Talukdar Dolatsinghji was entrusted with the revenue Vahivat in 1916 A. D The Talukdar in 1935 A. D., was K. S. Pratapsinhji Dolatsinhji who was a minor. The Taluka was under Agency management due to minority. The Thandar of Vaktapur Thana circle exercised jurisdiction over it. His family followed the rule of primogeniture, and did not hold a Sanad of adoption. The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 2,140.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D., but this Ordinance was declared *ultra*

vires of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 A. D. and, therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 for abolition of the privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Likhi

Likhi had an area of 30 square miles, covering 6 villages. The Likhi Talukdars, Chohan Kolis by caste, claimed descent from Makwana Rajputs and were related to the Thakor of Ilol. As the Thakor Himatsinghji was illiterate, his son Lalsinghji looked after the *jagir*. He paid no tribute. His family held no sanad of adoption. In matters of succession it followed the rule of primogeniture. The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 2,690.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D., but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 A. D. and, therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 A. D., for abolition of privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Tajpuri

Tajpuri had six villages. The Talukdar Kalusinghji, placed in the Sixth Class was a Makwana Koli. The taluka was under the Agency Management owing to the inability of the Thakor to manage the taluka. His family followed the rule of primogeniture but did not hold a sanad of adoption. The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 2,530.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D., but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 A. D. and, therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 for abolition of privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Ambaliara

The Thakors were Hindus, Khant Kolis by caste. They claimed their descent from Chohan Rajputs of Sambhar of Ajmer and were said to have received the grant of Ambaliara in the reign of Aurangzeb (1658-1707 A. D.). They were famous for the stiff resistance they had more

than once made to the Gaekwad troops. In 1798 A. D., Maharaja Sagramsinghji of Ahmednagar and Maharaja Jalamsinghji of Modasa attacked Ambaliara but the then Chief Bhathiji brought a counter-attack and pillaged 10 villages of Ahmednagar. Bhathiji defeated the combined armies of Ahmednagar and the Gaekwad and in 1808 A. D., entered into treaty with Anandrao Gaekwad. Bhathiji died in 1814 A. D., and his son Nathusinghji succeeded him. Amarsinghji came on the Gadi in 1838 A. D., after intrigues by the Thakranis. The State remained under management during the Thakor's minority. He died at the age of 39 and his son Thakor Jalamsinghji came on the Gadi. The taluka was taken under management during the minority of the Thakor and on the 15th August 1879 A. D., it was entrusted to the Thakor with full powers. He administered the estate well. He had the interests of his people at heart and had done his best to assist them in times of famine. His son Keshrisinghji was invested with the powers of the taluka on the 7th May, 1908 A. D. The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 26,000.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D., but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 A. D and, therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 for abolition of privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Vakhtapur

Vakhtapur had four villages. It is four miles from Himatnagar railway station. Half a mile from Vakhtapur village was the Thana headquarters of the Sabar Kantha Thandar, with Police Thana, Thandar's office and dispensary. The history of this taluka also dates from Bhathi one of whose descendants by name Vakhatsing established Vakhtapur. Thakor Adesinghji died in 1900 A. D., and Jaswantsinghji succeeded him. He died in 1913 A. D., and his son, Shivsinghji came on the Gadi, but being a minor the estate was under the Agency management. Thakor Vajesinhji was born on 7th December, 1891 A. D., and succeeded to the Gadi on 12th August, 1916 A. D. He was succeeded by Jethusinhji. Thakor Jethusinhji Vajesinhji was born on 14th September, 1926 A. D. and was educated at the Talukdari Girassia College, Wadhwan The taluka was under the Agency management from 21st January, 1936 A D., due to minority. The Manager exercised the following jurisdictional powers appertaining to the taluka :

Civil .	To the extent of Rs. 500.
Criminal ...	Three months' regorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 200.

His family followed the rule of primogeniture, but did not hold a Sanad of adoption. The Maharaja accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 4,700.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D., but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 A. D. and, therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 A. D., for abolition of privy purses and privileges of the rulers.

Gabat

The Gabat Jagir, had six villages. Gambhirsinghji founded the Jagir of Gabat. It paid no tribute, but received certain amounts as Giras haks. It enjoyed the status of the Seventh Class State. Vijesing, a Makwana Koli, succeeded to the Jagir in 1874 A. D. During his minority, the Jagir was managed by the Political Agent. The headquarters of the Jagir were at Gabat, a village of which the Idar State had the revenue. Thakor Rupsinghji came on the Gadi, in 1911 A. D., after receiving full training at Sadra. He was a tributary Talukdar, ranking in the Seventh Class, and paying the Maharaja of Idar annual sum of Rs. 25. The taluka of Gabat was policed by the Agency Police, but Government had sanctioned the maintenance of taluka police, who had, however, been employed by the Thakor. The family held no Sanad of adoption. In matters of succession it followed the rule of primogeniture.

At the time of merger of this Jagir with the State of Bombay, the Thakor had executed the Zamindari Agreement (Merger Agreement No. III), and the Thakor was termed as Jagirdar. The Gabat Jagir was abolished on 1st August, 1954 by the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagir Abolition) Act, 1953.

Pol (Vijaynagar)

The State of Pol was a Second Class State and was known as Vijaynagar. The rulers of Pol were called Raos and were descendants of Jaychand, the last Rathod Chief of Kanoj (1193 A. D.). Jaychand left two sons Shivaji and Sonangji. The first founded the family of Marwar, and the second established himself at Idar in 1257 A. D. When Sonangji was ruling at Sametri, Samalio Sodh, a Koli by caste was ruling at Idar. The latter wanted to marry the daughter of his Nagar Karbhari by name Rupali. The Karbhari thereupon induced Sonangji to come to Idar which he did and after killing the Koli Chief, conquered Idar in 1257 A. D. Sonangji

assumed the title of Rao and this descendants reigned in Idar for about 400 years. In the sixteenth century when Rao Jagannath was ruling in Idar, Shahzada Murad, son of Emperor Shahjahan invaded Idar and he compelled Jagannath to come to Pol. His son Punja again conquered Idar from the Muslims in 1658 A. D., and his brother Arjundas got the Gadi In a dispute with the Rehwar Rajputs, he was killed and Idar once more fell into the hands of Muslims. Rao Gopinath again took possession of Idar and reigned there for five years. Rao Chanda lost Idar forever and established himself at Pol, in 1720 A. D. The history of Pol upto 1859 A. D., is not so important. In 1859 A. D., Kumar Navalsinghji succeeded his father Rao Pahadsinghji. On his death, his uncle's son Hamirsinghji succeeded to the Gadi on the 23rd November, 1864 A. D. The village of Pol having been found unhealthy, he established Ghodasar as the capital of the State. Hamirsinhji died on 24th October, 1889 A. D., and his son Prathisinghji succeeded him. He being a minor at the time, the agency managed his affairs.[1] After completing his education at the Rajkumar College he came on the Gadi on 26th January, 1893 A. D. He administered his taluka satisfactorily. Rao Prathisinghji died on the 5th November, 1905 A. D. As he had no son, his youngest half brother Bhupatsinhji succeeded him in February 1906 A. D., and Mohobatsinghji, the elder brother of Bhupatsinghji succeeded to the Verabar Estate under Idar and renounced his claim to the Pol Gadi. The Darbar Coronation Medal was awarded to the Chief on the 11th August, 1913 A. D., and his elder brother Mohobatsinghji, Thakor of Verabar Estate was allowed by Government to succeed to the Gadi of the Pol State in 1913 A. D., without relinquishing the Estate of Verabar situated in the Idar State. Idar State submitted a memorial, but it was rejected and the orders of Government as to the reversionary right of the Pol State over the Verabar Estate were declared to be final in April, 1914 A. D. Rao Shri Mohobatsinghji died on the 27th November, 1914 A. D The succession of Kumar Hamirsinghji to the Pol State and of his younger brother Jorawarsinghji to the Gadi of the Verabar Estate was sanctioned by Government in 1916 A. D., Both the chiefs being minor, the estates were being managed by the Mahikantha Agency. On their attaining majority, the management of these estates was released by the Agency. The Maharaja of Pol accepted the privy purse which was fixed at Rs. 50,000.

In pursuance of the general policy of the Government of India to abolish the privy purses, the privy purse of the ruler was abolished with effect from 6th September, 1970 A. D, but this Ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court on 7th December, 1970 and, therefore, the privy purse had been revived. Subsequently the Parliament passed the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971 for abolition of privy purses and privileges of the rulers. The chief of the Verabar

1. *Report on the Administrative of the Bombay Presidency*, for the year 1891-92.

Estate signed the Zamindari Agreement (No. III). The Verabar Jagir was abolished on 1st August, 1954 by the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

Maratha Period

The establishment of the Maratha power in Gujarat dates from the fall of Ahmedabad in 1753 A. D. The Maratha spread like locusts over the land consuming and destroying everything and leaving behind them tract of almost deserted country in which neither men nor beast found sustenance. After the fall of Ahmedabad, the Peshwa and the Gaekwad divided Gujarat and Kathiawar between them. They levied and collected tributes from the countries which they could not subdue with the help of *Mulkgiri* army by making periodical advances. The term *Mulkgiri* according to Colonel Walker in the early part of the 19th century signified a seizure of the country or more properly a circuit of the country. This was, however, a systematised raid in search of tribute made on all Chieftains occupying the tract between the river Indus and Jodhpur. But more properly defined and elaborately conceived, the *Mulkgiri* in a way was a permanent military contribution. Its sanction was mainly based on conquest and forages and in Gujarat at least, it had been considered as legitimate exercise of lawful sovereignty. Originally it was imposed and subsequently it continued to be enforced by power. Naturally, it was always resisted where and when the parties were able to offer resistance. The amount realised, therefore, varied.

So far as the Sabarkantha district is concerned the establishment of Maratha power in Gujarat affected the various States and Estates of the Mahi Kantha Agency which covered a major portion of the present district.

After the elimination of the Peshwa, in the Mahi Kautha and the rest of the Mulkgiri districts of Gujarat, the Gaekwad was the only receiver of the tribute His sovereignty was, therefore, undisputed throughout the greater part of Gujarat.

ADOPTION OF WALKER SETTLEMENT IN MAHI KANTHA

The successful working of the Walker Settlement in Kathiawar led to its adoption in the Mahi Kantha also in the year 1811-12 A. D. In that year Lieutenant-Colonel Ballantyne, on behalf of the Resident, entered into similar arrangements for the realization of the tribute taking the usual securities for its punctual payment and the orderly behaviour of the tributaries. This freed the country from the appearance of the *Mulkgiri* army, but the claims of the smaller Chiefs on those less powerful than themselves continued to bear heavily on those who were already overtaxed.

MANAGEMENT OF MAHI KANTHA BY THE BRITISH

Matters stood in an unsatisfactory condition until the termination of the campaign against the Poona Government, when the Peshwa's share of Ahmedabad and its dependencies fell to the British Government (1817-18 A. D.). This possession of country near the Mahi Kantha brought into light the lawlessness and misrule existing among the tributaries there and suggested the idea of placing the management of the country in the hands of a more efficient Government than that of the Gaekwad.

THE GAEKWAD TREATY OF 1820 A. D.

The Gaekwad's Government being unable to remedy the unsatisfactory position of affairs in Kathiawar and the Mahi Kantha, the Honourable Mr. Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay, visited Baroda in the year 1820 A. D., and entered into an arrangement with Sayaji Rao Geakwad by which the sole management of the tributaries of Kathiawar and the Mahi Kantha was made over to the British Government, who undertook to collect and pay the tribute which had been fixed in 1807-08 A. D., for Kathiawar, and in 1812 A. D, for the Mahi Kantha. The Gaekwad Government pledged itself neither to send troops into, nor to interfere in any way with, the above territories. The terms of the treaty were as follows :

"With a view to the tranquillity of the country, and to the peaceable realization of His Highness the Gaekwar's tribute from Kathiawar and the Mahi Kantha, it is agreed that His Highness Sayaji Rao Gaekwar shall send no troops into the lands of the Zamindars in either of those tracts without the consent of the British Government, and shall make no demand on any Zamindar or other person of those provinces, except through the medium of the British Government The British Government engages to procure payment of the Gaekwar's tribute free of expense to His Highness, agreeably to the principles of the settlement made with the Zamindars of Kathiawar and the Mahi Kantha respectively, in the years 1807-08 (answering to Sumvat 1864), and in 1811-12 (answering to Sumvat 1868).

If any great expense be produced by the refractory conduct of the Zamindars, the British Government shall be at liberty to levy that amount, and no more, from the Zamindar resisting.

Executed on the 4th of Chytru Vud (answering to Jumadee-ool-akur 1220, Fuslee, and to Sumvat 1876 April, 3rd 1820).[1]

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1 (a) *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XII-New Series.

(b) *Memoir on the Mahi Kantha*, prepared in May 1845 by Captain J. R. Keily, Bombay, (1855), pp. 287, 288.

A detail review of impact of Maratha Power over various States, particularly the State of Idar now follows :

Idar[1]

Damajirao made many campaigns against the Raja of Idar whom he reduced to the status of a tributary. In 1728 A. D., just before he took up the Viceroy's post in Ahmedabad, Abhaysing of Jodhpur had made over to his two younger brothers, Anandsing and Raising, the little independent territory of Idar. These two chiefs, though they had frequently fought with successs against Javan Mard Khan were quite willing to aid him against the Gaekwad. Raising with all the disposable forces of Idar proceeding to Borsad, was surrounded by the Marathas and his force was placed in great jeopardy. Meanwhile Anandsing was attacked in Idar itself by some of his own subjects, the Rehvar Rajputs, whom he had in some way injured, and in the fight he was killed. By the aid of a Hindustani Chief in Damaji's camp, named Sajjansing, Raising managed to get out of the trap into which he had fallen at Borsad, but his army was destroyed. This occurred about 1752 A. D. Later on, perhaps the complete annexation of the Idar country by the Gaekwad was only prevented by the jealous interposition of the Peshwa.

About the year 1766 A. D., the Baroda army under Appasaheb came to Idar and demanded from Shivsing the ruler, half of the territory of Idar as belonging to his uncle Raising who had died without male issue. Shivsing tried to avoid compliance but was in the end compelled to write over a half share of the revenue of the State.[2] In 1778 A. D., Peshwa's deputy at Ahmedabad, with the help of the brother of Surajmal, one of the Idar proprietors who had been put to death by the eldest son of Shivsing, levied a tax in the Idar districts named *ganim ghoda vero* or horse cess. In 1802 A. D., the Gaekwad's revenue-collecting force came from Kathiawad, and encamping at Sidhpur, summoned Gambhirsing to pay arrears of the tribute and induced the commander of the Gaekwad's force to help him in driving out the Muslims from Gadhvada (Mehsana district). After some difficulty, the tribute was settled at the sum of Rs. 24,000, and its name changed from the enemy's horse, *ganim ghoda*, to the grass and grain, *ghas dana* cess. In 1848 A. D., Ahmedanagar (Himatnagar) and *Tintoi* (Modasa taluka) were transferred to Idar and the tribute raised to Rs. 30,340 the increase of Rs. 9,980 being for the transferred estates.

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1. DESAI G. H. AND CLARKE A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. I, *General Information*, (1923), pp. 460-461.

2. Bombay Government Rec. 91-A of 1861, 26. According to another account Shivsing was obliged to pass a bond for Rs. 20,000. FORBES, *Ras mala*, 459, cited in *The Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. I, *General Information*, (1923), p. 679.

Malpur

In 1780 A. D., during the reign of Indrasingji, Fatesing Gaekwad attacked and captured Malpur and took away its gates.[1] Since then the Malpur Ravals paid to the Gaekwad as *ghasdana* a sum of Rs. 280-4-4 annually.

OTHER MAHI KANTHA STATES

The Mohanpur State paid as *ghasdana* a yearly sum of Rs 4,749-11-2; Ghodasar Rs. 3,501; Ambaliara[2] Rs. 316; Punadra Rs. 375; Khadel Rs. 1,751; Ranasan Rs. 373-6-2; Ilol Rs. 1,863-3-1; Sathamba Rs. 401; Dabha Rs. 150; Rupal Rs. 1,164-13-6, Dadhaliya Rs. 699-4-6; Vasna Rs. 3 108-11-2; Ramos Rs. 158-5-4; Prempur Rs. 187; Kadoli Rs 513; Khervada Rs. 302; Dedol Rs. 513; Tajpuri Rs. 699; Vektapur Rs. 1,118; Hapa Rs. 1,025; Dedhrota Rs. 669; Deloli Rs. 250, Kasalpura Rs. 50; and Ijpura Rs. 240.

Prior to 1818 A. D., Bacha Jamadar was in charge of the Mahi Kantha, and though he maintained the Gaekwad's authority with some vigour, he failed in wholly arresting the depredations and outrages of the Kolis. These continued to exact *giras* and *vol*, while the Raja of Idar kept up his levy of the *khichdi*. In 1818 A. D., Bacha Jamadar was called of on foreign service and, soon after, all the Maratha troops being withdrawn, the province relapsed into disorder. Nevertheless on the 15th December, 1818 A. D., most of the chiefs of the province executed a security bond to the Hon'ble L. Stanhope on behalf of the Gaekwad, to pay the annual *jamabandi*, *ghasdana*, and other rights, quietly to take their own *giras* dues from the Gaekwad's government and not to molest any *patel* or village, not to consort with, smoke, or drink water with, criminals, but deliver them up and inform against them, on pain of losing *giras* and *vanta* rights. The details of the British intervention and gradual disintegration of the Maratha power have been described previously.

DISTURBANCES IN 1857 AND 1858 A. D.

The areas of the Mahi Kantha Agency were not directly affected by revolt of 1857 A. D. But it had indirect effect on the law and order in the areas. In this connection, two incidents which occurred at Chandap and Mudeti (Idar taluka) deserve notice. The trouble at Chandap arose because the Gaekwad posted 10 horsemen at Chandap to keep the Kolis in check and maintain peace. In the case of Mudeti, the disturbance took place because of the chronic indebtedness of Surajmal, Thakor of Mudeti, who could not pay his dues to the Idar Darbar and his creditors. As he was not allowed

1. DESAI G. H. AND CLARKE A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. I, *General Information*, (1923), p. 679.

2. The Thakors of Ambaliara were famous for the obstinate resistance they had more than once made to Gaikwad's troops.

to go to Jodhpur to secure funds for repayment of his debt, he rose in revolt against the Idar Darbar and the British. These incidents are detailed below :

DESTRUCTION OF THE VILLAGE OF CHANDAP IN 1857 A. D.

The Chandap village was under the jurisdiction of the Mahikantha Agency. Its population was predominantly that of Kolis. The village belonged to Gametis (village Headmen) of whom Nathaji and Yamaji were the chief leaders. The Gaekwad of Baroda and the Ruler of Idar received the tributes of Rs. 70-12-3 and Rs. 216-13-8, respectively from the Gametis. The Gaekwad of Baroda apprehended some trouble in the region and placed 10 horsemen in the village as a precautionary measure. The British Government endorsed the action of the Gaekwad and the State of Idar was willing to help the Gaekwad and the Government in the event of revolt by the Gametis of Chandap A perfect account of how the revolt started is available from the letter, dated 24th September, 1857 written by Major Whitelock, Political Agent in Mahikantha. He wrote "Serious disturbance occurred on the 16th instant at the Koly village of Chandap, which is situated immediately under a rocky and rugged hill about 150 or 200 feet high, and distance about 13 miles N. West from Edur. This village and two smaller one belong to several gameettees..... ....The Gaekwar Government receives annually from Chandap Rs. 70-12-3 on account of 'ghasdana' and the Raja of Edur Rs. 216-13-8, under the denomination of Kitcheree. Population of these three villages amounts probably to one thousand persons."

"Intelligence first reached me on the 18th instant, that of the ten Horsemen on Thana at Chandap one had been killed and two others wounded....... ....".

"The Raja of Edur had most laudably despatched seventeen of his own horse and fifty-six sebundees before my express reached him and the whole of the detachments were assembled close to Chandap early in morning of the 20th but as the villagers had decided upon open resistance and had thrown up stockades to prevent approach of Horsemen................ ...... a more reinforcement was sent from Sadra."1

The Political Agent further reported that, "The villagers of Dabhoda in H. H. the Gaekwad's Purgunna of Kheralu had joined cause with the Chandap people and has supplied them largely with arms and ammunition". The Political Agent was inclined to believe that the villagers of Dabhoda were the principal instigators and directors in the outbreak as they had long been threatening to commit depredations on the Mahikantha villages."2

1. P. D. Vol. 49 / Compilation 214 of 1857, pp. 223 to 226.

2. P. D. Vol. 49 of 1857, p. 227, Cited in "*Source Material for a History of the Freedom Movement in India*", Vol. 1, 1818-1885, pp. 204, 205, (1957).

On the 28th September, 1857, the Gaekwad issued a proclamation making it known to the people of Kuree (Kadi) that, "in the village of Chandap under the Mahikantha, the villagers assembled together on the 16th instant and attacked the Thana of that place in which a sowar of the Gaekwad Government was killed, two wounded and property plundered. As the people of Chandap have acted very improperly, it is hereby ordered that no person shall join them, nor afford them any assistance in the way of supplying them with guns and other weapons, shot and powder or by conveying food for them. If any person be found guilty in the Chandap case, he must be seized and sent to the Political Agent, Mahikantha, so that, he may be tried according to law. Should any other villagers have joined these rebels, they must at once return to their respective houses. If they do not do so, a force will be sent by the Sirkar to attack and seize them and severe punishment will be inflicted on them and their land, jageers and other 'Wuttuns' will all be confiscated by the Sirkar".[1]

It would thus be observed that Political Agent had anticipated the trouble and had made arrangements to crush the uprising. These events have been reported by Major Cormack, in detail as follows. "That a Thana of eleven Horsemen of the Gaekwad's contingent has for some time past been stationed at Chandap This I believe to have been very distasteful to the villagers, who felt the check imposed by its presence as inconvenient. No quarrel, however, as far as, I am able to discover took place until 16th September, 1857.

"On that day, at about 4 p m. Jaysnanker Mehta who had proceeded to Chandap on Government business sent Duljee, a Puttawala, to call Nathajee, one of the Mukhees to the village. Nathajee insolently refused to obey, saying in the words of the Puttawala : '*The English reign is over, why do you come here to me ? You and the Thana get away from here. I will not come.*' Mehta Jayshankar on hearing this directed the Puttawala to return and repeat the order at the same time sending one Hoosein, a horsemen of the Thana with him to bear witness to what might occur. This appears to have enraged Nathajee, who again most insolently refused to go and after abusing the two messengers, raised a great outcry that Hoosein had come to take him and called on the villagers to turn out and kill Hoosein. .... A great crowd of men and women immediately assembled, armed with clubs and swords Nathajee being the chief leader and his two sons and another Koli (with drawn swords), being particularly conspicuous. Duljee Puttawala and Hoosein then fled towards the Thana, closely pursued by mob who arrived there about the same time The Mehta desired the Horsemen of the Thana not to fight and that he would try and pacify the mob. Matoto, the son of Nathajee, however, attacked him with his sword and he would certainly have been

1. P. D. Vol. 49 of 1857, p. 215, P. D. Vol. 49 of 1857, p. 227 Cited in "*Source Material for a History of the Freedom Movement in India*".

slain then and there but for Rowjee, one of the horsemen, who was slightly wounded in warding of the blows......................Bhat Jeykrun, one of the securities of the village and one Brahmin named Dullal then pacified the rioters and induced them to disperse quietly.................. At about 7 p. m. a second onslaught by mostly the whole of the villagers was made............ ....Hooscin, the horseman was singled out by name and was killed and another horseman was cut down." Wrote Major Cornack, "since then the village of Chandap may be said in open rebellion against the state. The outrage was in my opinion deliberately planned and organised and intended as a commencement of a general disturbance, as the significant words addressed by Nathajee to the Puttawala tend to demonstrate............ ....Preparations were immediately made for resistance, the women and children sent away to the hills and the different roads stockaded or otherwise obstructed.......................... . The village has peremptorily refused to surrender a single man unless a full and free pardon be granted to all concerned, a proposition of course, at once rejected. All the inhabitants other than Kolies have left the village, anticipating the consequence of rebellion."[1]

The rebel Kolies numbered about 800 to 900. All the rest had swords, bows and arrows. Major Whitelock thought that they had made a vow and solemnized it by drinking kusoomba water, that they would not desert their chiefs.[2]

Against these rebels, the force employed on the 17th October, 1857 A. D., (exclusive of the Gackwad's troops under the Kumavisdar of Kheralu) was 40 Golundanze, 250 7th regiment N. I., 110 Gujarat Irregular Horse, 240 Gackwad's Horse, 17 Idur Raja's Horse, 125 Idur Raja's Seebundees: in all 782 (with mortars and 3 guns).[3]

Major Whitelock, the Political Agent in Mahikantha reported to the Government of Bombay in his communication dated Sadra 24th October, 1857 :

"The village of Chandap was found to be deserted, through only recently so and with the exception of one house where there was a large quantity of grain stored, which as it could not be removed, I ordered to be destroyed. Everything had been taken away but owing to the Gaekwad troops, having entered the village, after we had left it, a large portion of the houses were burnt, contrary to my orders in revenge no doubt for the injury and indignity committed upon their comrades. This destruction of property is only what I should probably have found it expedient hereafter

1. P. D Vol. 49 of 1857, p. 227, Cited in "*Source Material for a History of the Freedom Movement in India*", P. D. Volume 51, pp- 119 to 122.
2. *Ibid.*, P. D. Volume 51, of 1857, pp. 125-126.
3. *Ibid.*, P. D. Volume 51 of 1857, pp. 127-128.

to make for the sake of example, and, therefore, is not to be much regretted beyond the act of disobedience committed."[1]

The resistance offered by the Chandap insurgents continued without any tangible result for nearly four months when on 20th January, 1858 A. D. Major Whitelock reported to the Political Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the effect that he anticipated, "that the bulk of the inhabitants of Chandap district will shortly surrender themselves with view of being allowed to return to their villages".[2]

In all probability it seemed the villagers were afraid of taking the step of surrender unless they were given the protection by the Political Agent, as they were afraid of being murdered by Nathajee and his followers. Major Whitelock was willing to separate those who had not participated in the crimes committed on the 16th September, 1857 A. D., from the others but that he was not prepared to pardon anyone. He advised those who had only committed the offence of the Bharwattia to surrender themselves.[3]

Major Whitelock informed the Government of Bombay that, "Nathajee and his party, I suppose soon became aware of this fact, as they separated themselves from the others and moved almost daily from one place to another to guard against a surprise and have latterly, I have reason to believe, sent away all their families to the Gaekwad's districts. Nathajee's followers at first amounted in number to more than one-half of the whole village of Chandap..........................they have, however, within the last three weeks, quarrelled and although those who have separated from his adherence, keep at present aloof from the followers of the other three Mookhees, yet I look upon their quarrel and subsequent separation as a preparatory step for surrendering themselves".[4]

Nathajee, the leader of the insurgent villagers had sent a threatening letter, dated 25th December, 1857 A. D., to the Political Agent in which he said, "The whole of the Kolies of Chandap submit their respects and inform you that three nights ago, they came to Phoolpura and sent a threatening message (Jhansa) but you have taken no notice of this and have not entered into terms. However, instanly after you become acquainted with the contents of this paper, make terms, disbelieve not, for you are met every morning and evening, and it is necessary that those affairs are settled within 15 days. This is no idle threat but written for your information afterwards we may be tied and blown away from guns, but if you do not arrange with us, your life will certainly be taken."[5]

1. P. D. Volume 51 of 1857, pp. 137-138.
2. P. D. Volume 58 of 1858, p 247.
3. P D. Volume 58, pp. 247-248, paragraph 2.
4. P. D. Volume 58 of 1858, pp. 248-249.
5. P. D. Volume 58 of 1858, p. 255.

Fourteen persons were apprehended between 6th February to 27th March, 1858 charged with having taken a part in the murder and insurrection at Chandap but as there was no sufficient evidence against them the Political Agent in the Mahikantha sought permission of the Government to release them, but the Government thought that they should be detained and further evidence against them be collected.[1]

It may be pointed out that Nathaji and his followers repaired to the hilly region. From there they continued their fight against the Government at least for three months. They harboured other rebels also. Nathaji threatened to kill the Political Agent, if he did not arrange for his free pardon and rehabilitation of Chandap on the original site.[2] The Government took a stiff attitude and the Kolis under the leadership of Nathaji continued their resistance from the hills. Chandap was rehabited on the new site but there were only a few Kolis. On a doubt of helping the Koli rebels, 14 inhabitants of Chandap were apprehended by the Government, but after long enquiry they were released on account of lack of evidences against them.[3] The resistance of the Koli died down after the death of Nathaji.

Revolt of Thakor of Mudeti[4]

Under the Mahi Kantha Agency, Mudeti was a small estate under the jurisdiction of the ruler of Idar. Surajmal, Thakor of Mudeti in 1858 A. D., rose in revolt against the Darbar of Idar and British Government. The Thakor was chronically indebted to the Idar Darbar and other creditors to the tune of Rs. 41,958. The ruler of Idar had stopped the allowance of the Thakor Surajmal and requested the Political Agent Major Whitelock to intervene. Major Whitelock requested the Surajmal to settle his affairs with the Darbar whereupon Surajmal asked for permission to allow him to go to Jodhpur to obtain money from his father-in-law. He was not allowed to go and was asked to settle his affairs with the Darbar. Instead of complying with the instructions, Surajmal fled into the nearby hills and rose in revolt. Idar Darbar thereupon put up Police Thana at Mudeti. This was strongly resented by the Thakor.

In order to put down the revolt, Major Whitelock requested officer commanding at Ahmedabad for military assistance. Meanwhile, the Anderson Secretary to the Government of Bombay informed the Political Agent to try first conciliatory measures. Accordingly, Major Whitelock persuaded the Thakor to give up the ruinous path of rebellion and return to Mudeti, to settle his affairs. In a correspondence which ensued between him and the Political Agent, the Thakor bitterly complained against the setting up

1. P. D. Vol. 61 of 1858, pp. 161 to 165.
2. P. D. Vol. 58 of 1857, pp. 247-250.
3. *Ibid*.
4. The account is based on "*Gujarat in 1857*" by Dr. R. K. Dharaiya, Ahmedabad.

of a Police Thana at Mudeti and the attitude of the Darbar who did not reply to his letter. For these reasons he had to leave Mudeti and resort to rebellion. Whitelock insisted on him to go to Mudeti. Surajmal came to Mudeti on 22nd May, 1858 A. D., but the negotiations failed. He then returned to the hills and prepared to fight the forces of Idar and Government.

Under the instructions of Major Whitelock Captain Black thereupon attacked Mudeti on 9th August. 1858 A. D. The attack was repulsed and Lt. Law was severely wounded on the right arm and the force was moved to Badoli. An immediate assistance was sought from Ahmedabad and Deesa. Captain Conger and Jamadar Hussain Khan both were asked to join the force. Seeing himself surrounded on all the sides, Surajmal sent an offer of conditional surrender. However, before accepting his offer Thakor was asked to disband his Makaranis and come to Mudeti for talks. The Thakor did not accept this condition. Thereupon Major Whitelock sought the permission of Shakespeare to occupy Mudeti by force. The permission was granted but Shakespeare felt that Political Agent had not handled the situation tactfully.

Captain Black and Captain Hycock together with the troops of Hussain Khan attacked Mudeti on 22nd August, 1858 A. D. Makaranis in Mudeti were defeated. Barring a few most of them fled in the hills. Surajmal then planned from hills to recapture Mudeti. The Government regretted that operations against Mudeti should have had so indecisive a result. Captain Raikes was placed in charge of Mudeti and Lieutenant Legeyt had prepared a well-thought out plan to surround Surajmal and compel him to surrender. Accordingly on 7th September, 1858 A. D. Surajmal was attacked by the Government forces from all sides. But Surajmal and his men had repaired to the deeper parts of the hills Meanwhile here Surajmal was joined by Dafer Yadu Keshu, a well-known rebel with all his force. Major Whitelock, therefore, proposed to Shakespeare on 8th October, that in order to subdue Surajmal, British forces should be taken to hills. He also requested for a larger force. When Surajmal realised that he was surrounded on all sides by the British forces, he signified his willingness to surrender on his terms and not on the terms proposed by Government. For obvious reasons, Government could not agree to this offer. Major Whitelock, therefore, directed the British forces to attack. Surajmal and his party. But they could not be traced in the wooded hills.

It was now felt that the policy of Major Whitelock did not work out properly. On 22nd November, 1858 A. D., therefore, the Government appointed Captain Raikes as an acting Political Agent of Mahikantha for subjugating Surajmal. Captain Raikes made fresh attempts to come to terms with Surajmal without success. He, therefore, won over Thakors supporting Surajmal. By this time the Thakor of Mudeti (Surajmal) was also

economically and militarily weakened. He, therefore, arrived at Idar and surrendered to the Darbar. Thus, the Mudeti revolt was over after about a year of turmoil in the Mahikantha.

The Mahikantha Agency[1]

Mahikantha was the name given to a group of small chiefships situated between the rivers, Mahi and Sabarmati. The name Mahikantha means in Gujarati the bank of the Mahi, but this name was not strictly applicable, as the river flows through the territory in which the Mahikantha, Revakantha, Baroda and British territories were interspersed. The Agency did not actually touch the Mahi river at any point though it stretched from within a few miles of it on the south to within 8 miles of the Abu Road Station on the north, and from Pol on the Rajputana border 18 miles from Kherwada cantonment on the East to Rampara within 15 miles of the Kathiawar border on the west.

Stretching from the hilly eastern border into the level centre of Gujarat, the Mahikantha plain included tracts of land differing widely in physical configuration.

The Agency was situated in the extreme north-east corner of the Bombay Presidency. It was bounded on the north by the hilly tracts of Meywad and Sirohi, on the east by Dungarpur, Revakantha and the Kaira Collectorate, on the south by the States of Lunavada and Balasinor, the Collectorates of Kaira and Ahmedabad, and the Dehgam Mahal of His Highness the Gaekwad of Baroda, on the west by the Mahals of Kheralu and Vijapur and the Kadi Prant of the Gaekwad of Baroda and the Palanpur State. Its extreme length was about ninety miles and its greatest breadth about sixty miles.

It was divided into six Jillas or Districts : (i) Nani (small) Marwar including all the possessions of the Maharaja of Idar and his family. This was the first and principal section of the talukas included in it, being more or less under the authority of the Marwari Rajputs, as the last invasion of the Rathors is called. In this division were included the talukas of Idar and Ahmednagar, with their dependancies of Modasa, Harsol, and Bayad and those of Tintoi, Danta and Malpur together with the pattas of Pol, Pall, Poshina, and Harsol, all more or less subject to Idar.

(ii) *Rehwar*, the possessions of the Rehwar tribe of Rajputs formerly *patavats* of the Raos of Idar. It included the pattas of Gadhwada, Ranasan, Mohanpur with Rupal, Vadagam and Dadhalia.

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1. Framroz Sorabji Master, B. A., (Khan Bahadur), : *The Mahi Kantha Directory*, Rajkot, (1922).

(iii) The Koli possessions on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati river with the Rajput pattas of Mansa, and Pethapur on the western bank.

(iv) The Watrak Kantha. Koli possessions on both sides of the Watrak river consisted of Ambaliara, Mandwa, Khadal, Bayad, Modasa and Sathamba estates including the Koli villages of Zer and Nirmali.

(v) The Bavisi Thana contained the Rajput patta of Wasna and Sadra, with a mixture of Koli and Patel villages. It formerly formed a part of the Gaekwad pargana of Dehgam but was handed over to the Agency on account of the turbulent nature of its inhabitants.

(vi) The Katosan Jilla, exclusively Koli possessions, to the West of the Kadi pargana.

The following attempts to depict a comprehensive picture of the Agency administration.

The Mahikantha, always famous for the predatory habits and turbulent character of its inhabitants, also gave much trouble, which was, however, for the most part, confined within the limits of that province. The history of this part of the territory, particularly that of Idar, shows that during the Muslim period, Idar had always been a thorn in the side of the Ahmedabad Sultans, who were obliged to make several expeditions against that State. During the Maratha sway also, although the Gaekwad was acknowledged as the supreme power in Gujarat, the Mahi Kantha chiefs, from the natural advantages possessed by their tract, were able to defy the Gaekwad's army for long period. For example, the village of Ambaliara is stated in Mr. A. K. Forbes' Ras Mala to have stood a siege of six months against a force seven thousand strong, though it had no fort or wall, but only a thorn hedge (probably the prickly pear) on one side and a narrow strip of jungle on the other. The village was eventually carried by assault, but a number of the Kolis rallied with such vigour that the besiegers fled helter-skelter, leaving their guns behind. On another occasion the inhabitants of Lohar, numbering about one thousand, enticed a Gaekwadi force of ten thousand men into a defile, whence they were able to extricate themselves only after much loss of life and equipment.

The first intervention of the British in the Mahi Kantha dates from 1813 A. D., when major Ballantyne,[1] Assistant Resident in charge of the province, following the example of Colonel Walker, effected a settlement of the Gaekwad's tribute, but the settlement appeared at that time to have been merely nominal. In 1812 A. D., Colonel Ballantyne took a Security Bond

1. This is the same Major Ballantyne, whose large Haveli (mansion) stands near the Three Gates of Ahmedabad.

of Articles from the Chiefs of Mahikantha. The Articles are reproduced in the Annexure I.

In 1817-18 A. D., the East India Company supplanted the Peshwa and obtained a firm hold on Gujarat. In 1818 A. D., the Peshwa's possessions having, by conquests, fallen to the English, the latter came into closer connexion with the Mahi Kantha chiefs. The Gaekwad, unable to maintain order among them, passed an agreement on the 3rd April. 1820 A. D., making over the management of the Mahi Kantha to the British Goverment who undertook to collect, without charge, the tribute dues to the Gaekwad. In 1821 A. D., the Governor of Bombay, Mountstuart Elphinstone, visited this territory, and established the Political Agency with a view of securing the tranquility of the district and providing for the peaceful collection of the Gaekwad's tribute. With this end in view, the requisite agreements and securities were taken from several chiefs.

Bond of 11 Articles, 1822 A. D.

In 1822 A. D., a security bond of 11 articles was executed before Major Ballantyne, Political Agent, by the most of the Mahi Kantha chiefs. The objectives of the security bond were not to harbour criminals and outlaws or associate with them ; to restore to a jamindar his land if its boundaries had been encroached upon ; to submit all internal feuds to the Political Agent, to entertain no *sibandi, Pardeshis,* Arabs, *Pathans,* Kathis, Rajputs or Marathas : to abandon thieving and to be answerable for the goods of travellers according to the *pagla* system ; to keep no extra horses for Kolis ; to give security for the due payment of the *ghasdanq* and the *hak* of any Zamindar ; to submit their claims for *giras* and *vanta* to the decision of the Political Agent ; to observe rules connected with the opium trade, and to see that the inhabitants of uparvadia villages paid the *patels* their dues.

In 1828 A. D., Mr. J. Willoughby was appointed Political Agent for the Mahi kantha, Panch Mahals and Rajpipla. The administration of those districts remained in his hands until the year 1828 A. D., when on his vacating the Political Agency, the appointment was abolished in consequence of its expense. The Panch Mahals, Rajpipla and Mahi Kantha Agencies were then consolidated and entrusted to the supervision of Mr. J. Willoughby. On that officer leaving shortly afterwards, a further change was made. An officer was appointed in 1829 A. D., to reside at Sadra in the Mahi Kantha to superintend the Gaekwad's Contingent stationed there, to whom certain political authority was delegated, and one of the Assistants from the Baroda residency was yearly deputed to visit the Mahi Kantha for the purpose of realizing the tribute and preserving the tranquility of the Province.[1]

1. Framroz Sorabji Master, (Deputy Political Agent, Kathiawar), *The Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. I, Rajkot, (1922), p. 46.

Bond of 19 Articles, 1830 A. D.

Other security bonds were executed, but the most important was passed before Colonel Miles, Acting Political Agent, *Prant* Gujarat, on the 11th of August, 1830 A. D. It consisted of nineteen articles and was signed by all the chiefs of the province. The rights they agreed to respect consisted of the levy of the dues of *ghasdana, jamabandi, khichdi,* etc., and the customary dues of *Jamindars.* Their own rights they agreed to submit to the arbitration of the Political Agent. The chiefs agreed that 'We will not resume the *giras, vanta* or *pasaita* we may have assigned away for debt, or in *ranvatia* or gift. We will continue to our brethren and relatives and others, their *giras,* maintenance of *aidu jivak* lands, etc.' For the rest the agreement resembled those previously described. This bond was signed not only by the *Jamindars* of the Mahi Kantha, but also by the Kankrej *talukdars* and by the five estates of Bhadarva, Umeta, Anghad, Rayka, and Dodka. These last five estates formed part of the Rewa Kantha Agency while Kankrej had been transferred to the charge of the Political Superintendent of Palanpur

More or less disorder, however, continued, and in 1833 A. D., the chief of Rupal seized a rich merchant, brother of the Minister of Idar, and refused to release him until a sum due to him by the Idar Chief, Gambhirsinghji, then deceased, was paid. The minister, unable to meet this demand, engaged Surajmal, son of the chief of Mudeti, a daring youth who had already gained notoriety as an outlaw, to procure his brother's release, and promised to pay him a handsome reward. Surajmal collected a band of mercenaries and attacked and took Rupal, but, the minister failing to pay him the stipulated reward, he made good the amount by plundering some of the Idar villages. Several villages were also burnt. At this time, the practice of *sati* had become very general throughout the Mahi Kantha Agency. On the death of the Idar Chief, Gambhirsinghji on the 12th August, 1833 A. D., after a reign of forty-two years, seven of his Ranis, two concubines, one personal servant and four slave-girls immolated themselves in the presence of the assembled multitude. Only one Rani with the infant son was permitted to escape this ordeal. Although the victims comforted themselves in such a manner as to indicate their devotion to their deceased lord, the words uttered by the eldest of the Ranis, who was sixty years of age, evidenced their true feelings. Addressing the ministers assembled at the funeral pyre, she scornfully said that she had all along determined to follow her husband, but that it was strange that not a word of dissuasion had been addressed either to her or to the younger queens by any of the ministers. She then tauntingly bade them farewell and live on the plunder they were thus securing to themselves by the destruction of their chief's family. The sad spectacle was rendered more pitiable as one of the Ranis, a girl of twenty, had been married to the chief only a year ago. The slightest

entreaties would perhaps have availed to prevent the sacrifice of at least some of these Ranis.

Moved by this melancholy event, Mr. Erskine, who was then Political Agent, determined at all costs to prevent a recurrence of the *sati* in the Mahi Kantha. Accordingly, on the death of Karansingh, the Raja of Ahmednagar, in 1835 A. D., he moved his camp to that town. The Rajput, however, collected a band of Bhils and Kolis and even sought aid from Surajmal, the outlaw. Mr. Erskine had stationed guards at all the gates in order to prevent the widows of the Raja being carried out to the funeral pyre. A new gate was, however, opened in the course of the night, and, in spite of the cries of the unhappy females, they were burnt along with their husband's corpse. During this painful occurrence, one British officer is reported to have lost his life, being struck by an arrow when the Bhils were opposing the advance of the guard. It then became necessary to attack the city which had thus defied the British authority. News was, however, received that Surajmal was marching to its assistance with one thousand Makranis, whereupon Mr. Erskine, postponing the assault, applied for reinforcements to the General Officer Commanding the Northern Division. After the arrival of fresh troops, the fort of Ahmednagar was stormed and taken on the 3rd March, 1835 A. D. Several other forts were also destroyed, but the outlaws evaded capture, and Surajmal continued to raid the Idar territory. He went so far as to make a bold assault on the town of Siddhpur belonging to the Gaekwad. An Atit (ascetic), named Rajbharti, had gone into outlawry because his claim to a monastery in Siddhpur had been disallowed. This man, joining Surajmal persuaded him to espouse his cause on the promise of his mercenaries being adequately paid. Surajmal and the Atit went together to Siddhpur accompanied by some horsemen, who seized one of the principal merchants, named Lakhu Sheth and took him with them as a hostage. Surajmal compelled the Sheth to supply bills on his firm, which were duly cashed, and thus the rebels for sometime found an easy means of subsistense

At length to put down this state of lawlessness, Government considered it prudent again to constitute the Mahi Kantha into a separate Agency, and appointed as Political Agent, Captain afterwards Sir, James Outram, who had earlier distinguished himself in restoring order and tranquillity in the Dangs and Khandesh. That officer so vigorously hunted down the leading outlaws that they were soon reduced to straits. The Bombay Government were at that time of opinion that the principal outlaws had been compelled to have recourse to their life of rebellion by reason of family dissensions or unredressed grievances, and they, therefore, considered that, although none of the insurgents had been apprehended, they had been sufficiently punished by the dispersion of their followers, and by the taking and burning of their forts and villages. Believing, therefore, that the time had arrived when

lenient measures could be taken with advantage, the Government in consideration of the sufferings of the outlaws, proclaimed a general amnesty on the 7th February, 1835 A. D., and, on promise of their lands being restored to them on submission, invited the chiefs in outlawry to return to their homes. A guarantee was also given that all their grievances would be fully inquired into and suitably redressed.

So depressed had the chiefs become by their wanderings and privations that they immediately availed themselves of the amnesty, and surrendered one after another. The British Government restored them their estates, which had been held in attachment during their outlawry, and received pledges from them to suppress the inhuman custom of *sati* and to refrain from employing foreign mercenaries. In company with the Siddhpur merchant, Lakhu Seth, Surajmal also submitted on the 7th March, 1836 A. D. He was granted two of his father's villages, and was appointed Captain of the garrison of Ilora by the Idar Darbar, who took his troops into their pay. Rajbharthi, the Atit of Siddhpur, surrendered to the Gaekwad's Government, and was by them kept in confinement for some months, but was subsequently placed in charge of the monastery in that town on his presenting a *Nuzarana* (present).

In short, through the conciliatory measures so wisely adopted by Government, and carried out with much tact and judgment by Captain Outram, tranquillity was restored in the Mahi Kantha before the end of the year 1836 A. D.

Re-establishment of the Mahi Kantha Agency in 1836 A. D.—The Political Agency in the Mahi Kantha was amalgamated with the Residency again in 1829 A. D. and that an arrangement was made by which an Assistant was deputed to these district annually for the purpose of collecting the Gaekwad's tribute. The territory became the prey of outlaws and disturbers of the peace on all sides, and to stop this disgraceful state of things, the Political Agency was re-established in 1836 A. D. Captain Outram was deputed to restore order in the distracted provinces, and in 1839 A. D., Criminal Courts similar to the one established in Kathiawar, and presided over by the Political Commissioner were established into the Mahi Kantha and the Rewa Kantha.

In 1838 A. D., Sir James Outram instituted Border Panchayat's for the settlement of the numerous blood feuds and disputes between the wild Bhils on the Mahi Kantha and Rajputana frontier. The system, which was one of money compensation for crime, was found to be effective in preventing reprisals and maintaining peace. The Border Courts Rules were revised in 1873 A. D and 1877 A D. The joint court met every year, when the Political Agents of Mahi Kantha and Rajputana met on the border to settle the disputes. In the commencement of 1839 A. D., a very important benefit was conferred on

Sabar Kantha by the introduction of the Court of Criminal Justice, for the trial of all serious offences through the Agency of the Political Agent, with Chiefs as assessors. The establishment of this tribunal had a most salutary effect upon all classes and proved a powerful auxiliary in restraining crime. Government prohibited the system of 'Bharwateeism' (outlawry) and proclamations were issued throughout the province making the offence penal, and subjecting the party offending to severe punishment. The custom of *sati* was common at the time the British supremacy was established in the Mahi Kantha and afterwards it was confined mostly to the families of the principal Chiefs, particularly Idar and Ahmednabar. In 1836 A. D., the latter Chiefs entered into an engagement renouncing the practice. On the death of Raja Prithising in 1840 A. D., his widows were successfully deterred from sacrificing themselves. A proclamation was issued by the Government on 21st September, 1843 A. D., directing that the village or taluka of the Chief in which it (*sati*) might occur should be placed under attachment, and the parties concerned in the rite kept under restraint, pending orders from Government. Self-immolation was prohibited, under proclamation, dated the 9th November, 1849 A. D. and trials by orders were prohibited under proclamation, dated the 17th November, 1849 A. D.

Principal events of the Agency

Some of the principal events of Agency are described below :

The principal event of the year 1868-69 A. D., was the death of the Maharaja of Idar, Sir Jowansingjee Gambhirsingji. In consequence of the minority of his son, the Idar State had been placed under the management of the Political Agent.[1] In 1877-78 A. D., the Agency consisted of 59 States of which the Idar was the largest and most important Fifteen including Idar were under attachment. A Darbar was held during the year at which a Delhi banner was presented to the Maharaja of Idar. The Report of 1876-77 A. D., revealed two difficulties in the administration of the Mahi Kantha Agency, *viz.*, "Its position on the wild and unsettled frontiers of Gujarat Rajputana and Central India and the large number of its petty chieftains are the two chief sources of difficulty in administering the Mahi Kantha Agency."[2] In this year, the scheme pertaining to classifying the chiefs and grading their judicial powers received the sanction and approval of the Government. Accordingly, of the whole number of landlords, fifty-two were allowed to exercise judicial powers and according to their position and wealth, had been arranged into seven classes, with varying civil and criminal jurisdiction. Chiefs of the First Class had full civil and criminal powers, without, except under very special circumstances, any appeal or reference to the Political Agent. Chiefs

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1. *General Report on the Administration of Bombay Presidency for the year 1868-69*
2. *Repor t on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1876-77.*

of the Second Class had full civil and criminal powers, subject, in the case of capital sentences and suits more than Rs. 20,000 to the Political Agent's confirmation. Chiefs of the Third Class had in criminal matters powers to imprison for two years and fine upto Rs. 1,000 and in the civil matters could try cases of Rs. 5,000 and Chiefs of the Fourth Class could imprison for a year, fine up to Rs. 500 and hear civil suits of less than Rs. 2,500 in value. Chiefs of the Fifth Class could imprison for six months, fine up to Rs. 250 and hear civil suits of less than Rs 1,000 in value. Chiefs of the Sixth Class could imprison for three months, fine up to Rs. 100 and hear civil suits of less than Rs. 500 in value. Chiefs of the Seventh Class could imprison for one month, fine up to Rs. 50 and hear civil suits of less than Rs. 250 in value. Of the whole number of fifty-two chiefs, one had been entrusted with the first class powers, two with the second class, three with the third, nine with the fourth, nine with the fifth, fourteen with the sixth and fourteen with the seventh. The representatives of seven of the smallest estates had been considered unfit for the exercise of judicial powers. In the case of their lands, the whole civil and criminal jurisdiction and in the case of other chiefs the jurisdiction in question beyond their power, rested with the Political Agent and his Assistants.[1] In 1878-79 A. D., the number of estates under the direct management of the Government was 16 and amongst them was included Idar.

In 1885-86 A. D., the Gaekwad's Contingent was disbanded, and regular mounted and foot police were introduced in their place from the subsidy paid by Baroda.

The Agency in 1885-86 A. D., comprised 64 States and Estates, all of which except State of Idar were inconsiderable.[2] In 1886-87 A. D., the total abolition of transit dues throughout the province was effected. In 1891-92 A. D., a Border Court was held and 64 claims were settled.

The introduction of the Kathiawar Limitation Rules was an important event in the history of the Agency in 1886-87 A. D. In 1889-90 A. D., the Agency management over the Varsoda taluka was withdrawn and the taluka was handed back to its chiefs. In the same year, Rao Hamirsinghji of Pol (Vijaynagar) died leaving two sons. Owing to the minority of Prathisinji the Pol State was put under attachment by Colonel Salmon. The State of Varsoda which had been under the Agency management, chiefly on the score of indebtedness since 1882 A. D., was handed over to its Thakor in the same year. About the, Ranasan, the Report observed that Thakor Hamirsingji died on 5th February without a heir. The heir-at-law was his uncle Jiwatsinghji about fifty years of age, who wished to resign his right in favour of his

1. *Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1876-77*, pp. 11-12.

2. *Ibid., 1885-86*, p. iv.

son Kishorsinghji. In the meanwhile, the judicial functions were entrusted to an Agency Official.[1]

The Mahikantha Political Agency in 1892-93 A. D., consisted of group of 59 States of various sizes. The only first class State in the Agency was the Idar State. Of the others, 25 exercised limited jurisdiction and the remaining States were controlled by the Officer-in-charge of five Thandars. The Idar State contained more than half of the population and while paying tribute to Baroda itself received tribute from some of the smaller States. The remainder paid tribute either to the Gaekwad or to the British Government.

On 28th November, 1893 A. D., a Darbar was held by the Governor of Bombay at Ahmedabad. A Border Court was held in 1893 for the settlement of cases between Mahi Kantha on the one side and Sirohi and Mewad on the other and 128 cases were disposed of. In 1897-98 A. D.,[2] the most important event was the celebration throughout the Mahi Kantha States of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. In the same year the Gabat taluka was handed over along with revenue administration only to Amarsing, a collateral of Thakor Vajesinghji.

In 1903-04, the Agency consisted of First Class State of Idar and 62 smaller States. In this year His Highness Sir Pratapsinghji had been granted an annuity of Rs. 30,000 by the Jodhpur Darbar. Moreover, a special Darbar was held at Ahmednagar on the birthday of the King Emperor The rules regulating the manufacture, import, export and transport of arms and ammunition in the Agency were introduced.[3]

In 1904-05 A. D. a new system for the import and sale of hemp and other intoxicating drugs was introduced in the States under the Agency. A Border Court was held at Pol in February for the settlement of leases between Mahi Kantha and Mewad and Mahi Kantha and Dungarpur and 31 cases were disposed of, 19 boundary cases with Baroda were settled by Officers from both sides and one by the Boundary Commissioner[4] In 1905-06 A. D., three Border courts were held for the settlement of cases between Mahi Kantha and Mewad, Mahi Kantha and Sirohi and Mahi Kantha and Dungarpur Five boundary disputes with Baroda were also settled[5]

In 1912-13 A. D., Mr. Claude Hill, Member of Council, made a short tour in the Agency. Thakor Dada Saheb of Godasar died in May, 1912 A. D.

1. *Mahikantha Administration Report for the year 1889-90.*
2. *Annual Administration Report of Bombay Presidency for the year 1897-98.*
3. *The Annual Administration Report of the Bombay Presidency, 1903-04,* p. 4.
4. *Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1904-05,* p. 4.
5. *Ibid., 1905-06* p. 4.

and Thakor Takhatsinghji of Magodi died in January, 1913 A. D. Their successors, Kumars, Mohobatsinghji and Jaswantsinghji being minors the talukas were placed under Agency Management.[1] The Thakor Becharsingji of Khedawada having attained majority, the revenue administration of the taluka was handed over to him. The Thakor Jivatsinghji of Vadagam was invested with the powers of a 5th class chief. Border courts were held at Khedbrahma with Kotra, Dungarpur and Khervada and 60 cases out of 75 were decided. In 1913-14 A. D., the jurisdictional powers of Thakor Hamirsinghji of Rupal were suspended and the taluka was placed under the Agency administration

In the year 1917-18 A. D., the civil and criminal powers of Rawalji Shri Jaswantsighji of Malpur were enhanced in appreciation of his good administration of his taluka. Moreover, jurisdictional powers were conferred on Becharsinhji of Khervada and Jagirdar Umedsinhji of Mota Kothasana was restored to the position of Thakor[2] In 1918-19 on the death of Thakor Surajmalji of Varsoda, his taluka was taken under the management of the Agency during the heir's minority. Similarly, on the death of Bhayat Madansinghji of Dalisna, his eldest son Japatsingji was invested with civil and criminal powers The Vadagam and Mota Kothasna were taken under the management of Agency.[3]

It may be pointed out that in the year 1920-21 A. D., the Agency consisted of 51 small States and talukas. In this year the powers of a Third Class Magistrate were conferred upon Thakor Kubersingji of Kadoli and he was empowered to hear civil suits up to the value of Rs. 50 as a mark of personal distinction. Moreover, in the same year, Kumar Shri Vakhatsinghji of Tajpuri having attained maturity was allowed the revenue administration of the taluka.[4]

In 1921-22 A. D. in addition to the First Class State of Idar the Agency consisted of two Second Class States of Pol and Danta and 49 small States and talukas. The chief event of the year was the trouble among the Bhils. It originated in the neighbouring State of Mewad and rapidly spread across Idar and Danta. A rumour that one Khema Bhagoda was seized upon by the Bhils was the pretext for refusing to pay their dues to States and while they were in this inflammable condition, one Motilal Tejavat of Koliari (Mewad) proceeded to organise a movement called "Eki". All the Bhils, who joined swore took an oath that they would work in union and that the Bhils of no one State should effect any settlement with the authorities until all the Bhils of other States were equally satisfied. As

1. *The Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1912-13*, p. 4.

2 *Ibid*, *1917-18*, p. 5.

3. *Ibid.*, *1918-19*, p. 5.

4. *Ibid.*, *1920-21*, pp. 5-6..

the movement spread and their number increased, the Bhils became aggressive. Every possible effort was made to arrest Motilal and to bring about a settlement with the Bhils of the States of Idar and Danta but without success. A skirmish took place with a party of the Mewad Bhils corps, in which there were several casulities among the Bhils but Motilal himself escaped. After latter's flight, a settlement was effected with the Bhils of the Pol State. The Bhils of the Idar State had also come to terms.[1] In 1922-23, the Bhils of almost all the States became quite as their grievances were redressed.[2]

The Sabarkantha Agency and Attachment Scheme

In the year 1933 A. D., the Sabarkantha Agency, with headquarters at Sadra Civil Station was consituted by the amalgamation of the Mahi Kantha and Banas Kantha Agencies. Prior to 1933 A. D., the administration of these two agencies was on the usual lines under a Political Agent. The Agency contained 44 jurisdictional non-salute States and eight Thana circles.[3] As a result of the scheme of Attachment introduced in 1944 A. D., the Political Agents of the subordinate Agencies had ceased to be in direct relation with non-salute States and groups of innumerable petty States known as "Thanas" had been attached to Major States.[4] The Sabarkantha Agency was, therefore, abolished in 1944 A. D. and with effect from 28th June, 1944 A. D., nine talukas of Rehwar district, *viz.*, Mohanpur, Ranasan, Rupal, Bolundra, Vadagam, Dadhalia, Sathamba, Gabat and Likhi and two thanas. of Mohar and Bhadardi were attached to the State of Idar[5]

It has been seen previously that in 1863 A. D., the States were divided in seven classes. Although these classes were abolished the jurisdictions fixed previously continued. The political administration of the Western India States was the responsibility of Government of Bombay. But from 1924 A. D., onwards the set-up of the Political administration was changed. The transfer of States to direct political relations with the Government of India, a change which was advocated in the Montague Chelmsford Report on Constitutional Reforms, was not carried out until 1924 A. D. The first stage in the process was the creation of a new Agency in direct relation with the Government of India, known as the Western India States Agency. This Agency comprised the whole of the area containing the old Kathiawar, Cutch and Palanpur Agencies.

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1. *A Review of the Administration of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1921-22*, pp. 31-32.
2. *Ibid.*, *1922-23.*
3. *The Indian Year Book and Who's Who*, 1942-43, published by Times of India Press, Bombay, p. 196.
4. *Ibid.*, 1945-46, p. 209.
5. *An Abridged History of Idar State*, (in Gujarati), by Gopaldas Jogidasji, 1948, pp. 1-2

The other States in the Bombay Presidency which for the time being remained in Political relations with the Government of Bombay, were transferred to control of the Government of India with effect from the 1st April, 1933 A. D. This transfer necessitated the re-grouping not only of the remaining Bombay States but also of some of the States of Western India States Agency and also the creation of a separate Political Agency of the Government of India designated the Baroda and Gujarat States Agency. The charge of this new Agency was added to the charge of the Resident at Baroda, who was designated as the Resident at Baroda and The Gujarat States. The States of Danta and Palanpur were included in the Rajputana Agency; the former having been part of the old Mahi Kantha Agency and the latter, part of the Western India States Agency. The States and Estates of the Mahi Kantha and Banas Kantha Agencies were united in the Sabarkantha Agency which was abolished in 1944 A. D.[1] The States of Idar and Vijaynagar, formerly included in the old Mahi Kantha Agency, were included in the Rajputana Agency.

With effect from the 5th November, 1944 A. D., the Western India States Agency and the Baroda and Gujarat States Agencies were amalgamated and the Resident for the combined Agency was designated "Resident at Baroda and for the States of Western India and Gujarat."[2]

The Freedom Movement[3]

After suppression of the Revolt, the East India Company was abolished and the administration of the country was assumed directly by Queen Victoria herself. The Board of Control was abolished and its functions began to be performed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council. The commencement of Queen Victoria's rule was signalized by her historic proclamation of 1st November, 1858 A. D. which ran as follows :

"We hold ourselves bound to the natives of our Indian territories by the same obligations of duty which bind us to all our other subjects; and those obligations by the blessings of Almighty God, we shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfil.

"And it is our further will that, so far as may be, our subjects of whatever race or creed by freely and impartially admitted to offices in our services, the duties which they may be qualified by their education, ability and integrity, duly to discharge.

1. *The Indian Year Book and Who's Who*, 1945-46, published by Times of India Press, Bombay, pp. 209-20.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 210.

3. The account is based on : Gandhi Bhogilal and Gandhi H. Ramanlal (Editors), *Purusharthani Pratima*, Baroda, (1959).

"It is our earnest desire to stimulate the peaceful industry of India to promote works of public utility and improvement and to administer its government for the benefits of all our subjects resident therein. In their prosperity will be our strength; in their contentment our security and in their gratitude our best reward."1

With regard to the relations of the Indian Princes to the Crown of England, the Queen added :

> "We hereby announce to the Native Princes of India that all Treaties and Engagements made with them by or under the authority of the Honourable East India Company are by us accepted and will be scrupulously observed; and we look for the like observance on their part. We desire no extension of our present territorial possessions; and while we will admit no aggression upon our Dominions or our rights to be attempted with impunity. We shall sanction no encroachment on those of others. We shall respect the rights, dignity and honour of Native Princess as Our own; and We desire that they, as well as our own subjects, should enjoy that prosperity and that social advancement which can only be secured by internal peace and good Government."

The proclamation issued by Queen went a great way to create an atmosphere of peace and good will and gradually the British Rule came to be regarded as a dispensation of Providence throughout India Meanwhile universities were established in the Presidency towns. Education on the English model that was imparted through universities exerted a considerable influence on the south of the country. Their first reaction was uncritical acceptance of the western standards and ideas. However, the embers of frustration and discontent of the people continued to smoulder. With the import of cheap raw materials from India, Britain developed immense prosperity and authoritarianism. Lord Disrallis's concept of imperialism stiffened the attitude of the people.

Lord Lytton was the Viceroy during Disrallis' premiership He passed the Arms Act restricting the rights of Indians to carry fire-arms and the Press Act imposing firm Government control over the vernacular newspapers. Over and above these, official measures were taken to create difficulties in the way of the Indian aspirants for the Indian Civil Service.

Lord Ripon's appointment as Viceroy helped to bring the nationalistic feelings to the fore. Lord Ripon who succeeded the reactionary Lord Lytton as the Viceroy of India was a liberal statesman of the Gladstone school. He made sincere attempts to liberalise the government. His Government introduced a Bill in the old Imperial Legislative Council in 1883 A. D., which came to be known as the Ilbert Bill after the name of its framer Sir

1. Cited in '*Jinnah and Gandhi*', by S. K. Majmudar, Calcutta, 1966, p. 7.

Courtenay Ilbert, the Law Member of the Viceroy's Council. This Bill was designed to remove a judicial disability from which Indian members of the Indian Civil Service suffered. The British Subjects could be tried only by the European Judges. This Bill aimed at removing this discrimination in the trial of the British Subjects. It gave rise to a furious agitation on the part of the European community who regarded it as an encroachment on their prerogative. The Government of India bowed down to the European agitation and the original Bill was watered down.

At this juncture, a very distinguished member of the Indian Civil Service, Mr. Allan Octavious Hume came on the scene. He became a spokesman for ventilating grievances of the Indians. He believed that the British bureaucracy was out of touch with the people and maintained that it was of vital importance to find a constitutional channel for the increasing discontent. Mr. Hume, therefore, conceived the idea of bringing into existence a national gathering of Indians. A conference was, therefore, held in Bombay in which Mr. Hume took a leading part. When the conference commenced on the 27th December, 1885 it was found that the leading representatives of India were present. The Conference was given the name of the Indian National Congress. In the first session of the Congress, the first spokesman was Allan Octavious Hume who came to be called the father and founder of the Indian National Congress.

Another important phase of the political awakening was the stormy agitation sparked off by the partition of Bengal in 1906 by Bengalies. The Government felt that some concession should be made to the popular clamour and the result was that Morley-Minto Reforms were introduced in 1906-07. Though district was not directly affected by these happenings, repercussions were, however, felt. They are dealt with below.

In the district, Modasa was the centre of the freedom movement. It responded to the call of the national leaders during various phases of the freedom movement. Since the beginning of the present century, some persons of the towns were politically conscious and they actively participated in the freedom movement. Shri Mathurdas Laljibhai Gandhi and his companions had the credit for initiating freedom movement in the district. Shri Mathurdas guided the freedom movement till Independence was achieved.

As in other parts of Gujarat, the national movement did not create any impact on the people of Idar State. The oppression of the rulers, however, awakened the people and forced them to unite and establish a Praja Mandal for ventilating their grievances.

In 1905 A. D., when the Swadeshi Movement and the Bangbhang agitation started all over the country, Sarva Shri Mathurdas Gandhi, Joitaram Bhatt, Mohanlal V Gandhi and Chandulal S. Butala in the district responded to

the call given by the national leaders and a series of lectures were delivered against the Government and the people were advised to boycott the foreign goods. The first political lecture in Modasa was arranged under the chairmanship of one Vallabhadas Bapuji Desai. The youths were asked to take oath to boycott foreign cloth and to refrain from using imported foreign sugar and were advised to use swadeshi goods.

Gandhiji started the Non-co-operation Movement in 1920 A. D. The movement had its effects in the district. Shri Mathurdas prevailed upon the local merchants not to sell the foreign cloth. He vigorously started the activity of 'Rentia' and during 1922-23 A. D., 240 'Rentias' were used in Modasa town alone. Donations for Tilak Swarajya Fund were collected. The Taluka Congress Committee had also started functioning by this time. The Modasa High School was declared a national school with the result that the Government refused to give grant. The 'Kumar Mandir' was started. In the Non-co-operation Movement as co-operation to the Government courts was not extended, an arbitrary court had been started About 40 persons volunteered to work as Magistrates.

The youths of the district celebrated the Complete Independence Day on the 26th January, 1930 A. D. by holding public meetings, unfurling the flags and taking vows for complete Independence as the goal of the nation.

On 12th March, 1930 A. D. when Mahatma Gandhi started his historical March to Dandi, a few young men of Sabarkantha left their studies and joined the historical march. Some published *patrikas* (handouts) and delivered public speeches in favour of the Satyagraha movement Shri Bhogilal led a crops of volunteers to Lasundra with intention to break the rules of salt. It thereafter became a mass movement and the youths of the district sold the salt for which excise duty was not paid. Public meetings were held in Modasa and other towns and 'Swaraj Salt' was sold.

A group of volunteers moved in the villages under the leadership of late Shri Mathurdas Gandhi and preached the message of Mahatmaji. Thus the people were awakened. Groups of volunteers from Ahmedabad also moved in the district, held meetings and sold salt. Public meetings were held frequently and national songs were sung, which inspired the youths to join the freedom struggle. There was tremendous awakening throughout the district. News bulletins were pasted on the walls in Modasa, Dhansura and other villages of the district. The day-to-day news of the movement and programmes were conveyed through sush bulletins.

In May, 1930 A D., the liquor shops were picketed in Modasa, Dhansura and Demai under the auspices of the Ahmedabad Prohibition Society. Resolutions were passed to boycott the liquor and the foreign goods. Thousands of men and women took vows that they would use Swadeshi goods and

boycott the foreign goods. The Mahajans of Modasa, Dhansura and Demai resolved not to order foreign cloth for 12 months. Shri Mathuradas Gandhi toured many neighbouring villages, held meetings, gave public speeches and inspired the people to abstain from the use of liquor and boycott the foreign cloth. Some youths belonging to the district and studying at Bombay left their studies, returned to Modasa, and joined the movement. The Modasa Municipality requested the servants to use the Swadeshi clothes.

In August, 1930 A. D., a national week was celebrated in Modasa. Youths moved in groups in the neighbouring villages and distributed Dharma Yuddha *patrikas* among the people.

The booklet entitled ' Ran Nad ' and ' Swaraj Geet ' were confiscated and the press was asked to give a guarantee of Rs. 500 for each. The movement spread even in the interior villages. Shri Maganbhai Patel from Dhankhrol and Dahyalal from Sakaria and other workers were arrested. Chandulal S. Butala, Ramanlal Maganlal Shah, Purushottam Shah and Ramanlal M. Gandhi gave speeches against Government in villages and courted arrest.

The movement took an interesting turn. The Census of 1931 A. D., was boycotted successfully in both the urban and rural areas and the Government servants did not co-operate fully. A group of persons consisting mainly of Shri Ramanlal Soni of Modasa, Narhari Bhatt of Gujarat Vidyapith and Chhabildas Shah moved in the villages of the district and advised the people to boycott foreign goods. Another group consisting of Shri Jamnadas Desai, Gopaldas Sura, Panachand Doshi and Ochhavlal Doshi toured the villages of Gabat, Ubharan, Sarsoli, Demai, Bayad, Choila, Sathamba, etc., (almost all the villages belonged to native States and Estates) and stopped the sale and purchase of foreign cloth. Moreover, the sale and purchase of foreign cloth was stopped in Malpur, Vadagam, Bhensavada, Sayara, Bakrol, Pandarwada, Ambalia, Virpur, etc.

The ' Dharma Yuddha ', which has been referred to previously, a daily bulletin was published and edited by Gopaldas Sura. It was he who spear-headed the movement of boycott of Census. At last he was arrested on 24th January, 1931 A. D The campaign of erasing the Census numbers was carried on for a number of days in the urban and rural areas of the district. Even ladies participated enthusiastically in this movement. Smt. Maniben Doshi of Modasa was one of them who led a big procession, sold excise free salt and brought about political awareness among the ladies of Modasa.

On 4th January, 1932 A. D., Mahatma Gandhiji and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were arrested and sent to jail without any trial. Their arrests sparked off a serious agitation in the country. The movement also spread in this district and the workers were arrested. The year 1933, witnessed the establishment of the ' Modasa Pradesh Seva Sangh ' for social activities.

In the 'Quit India' movement of August, 1942 A. D., the district could not remain aloof. Shri Ramanlal M. Gandhi, Natwarlal Gandhi and Mathurdas Gandhi from Modasa and Haribhai Mathurdas Gandhi, Mohanlal Dasbhai and Punamchand Pandya from Dhansura participated in the movement and courted arrest.

The students of Modasa High School went on a long strike which lasted for 3 months. *Patrikas* were published twice a week, and were distributed secretly. Meetings were held and processions were taken out. Some of the young people indulged in sabotage activities also. The post boxes were thrown into wells and crackers were thrown on Government buildings. From the foregoing account it would thus be observed that the contribution of the district to the freedom movement was substantial.

The Idar State : Praja Mandal and its activities

Before reviewing the activities of the Mandal, it would be appropriate to understand the background in which the Mandal was formed. Pratapsingh, the ruler of Idar had increased taxes exhorbitantly during his reign. The people of the State requested the ruler in 1910 A. D., to repeal the illegal taxes. He was, displeased with them and shifted the facilities of the Mamlatdars court, the Hospital and the Police station from Idar to Jadar. The people of Idar protested against the action and went on strike which continued for 32 days. Suppression was so much that well-known reformist and poet Neelkanth of Idar died in Jail. Shri Hargovind Thakor was also beaten severely. Afterwards there was compromise and the strike was called off.

Pratapsingh was succeeded by his son, Dolatsingh. He was in no way better than his father. During his reign people had to suffer a lot. Shri Mathuradas Gandhi was moved by the miseries of the people and published articles in newspapers of Bombay Shri Mathuradas at Bombay called a meeting of the residents of Idar and established a Praja Mandal in February, 1925 A. D. Several articles were published in newspapers and weeklies such as the 'Saurashtra' the 'Hindustan', the 'Bombay Chronicle', and the 'Sanj Vartman'. These articles depicted the miseries of the people of the Idar State and sought the redress of their grievances. The ruler of Idar, however, imposed a ban on the entry of nine workers of the Idar Praja Mandal, into the State. It included Gangaram Kirparam Shukla of Chitroda The total membership of the Praja Mandal by now was around 900. Out of these, 100 members resided in the State itself. The Praja Mandal represented to the Political Agent the miseries which the people of the State had to endure. This, however, proved of no avail A long memorandum describing the acts of the ruler was presented to Sir Lesli Wilson, the then Governor of Bombay. He was apprised of the terrorism of the ruler by Mathuradas Gandhi. This memorandum was effectlve. As a result, Shri Lalluram Jeshankar, the Diwan

and the Thakor of Chandarni were dismissed. A new Diwan was appointed and the powers of the ruler were considerably restricted. Thus in 1926 A. D., the Praja Mandal achieved a significant victory.

A conference of the Praja Mandal was held in June, 1927 A. D., at Idar. Shri Manilal Harilal Mehta, an advocate of Godhra presided over the Conference It was a historical event which made the people politically conscious. A paper known as the 'Prajamat' was published by the President of Praja Mandal. Shri Manilal Mehta. Shri Bhadrakumar Yajnik and Gangaram K. Shukla from Bombay[1] published a weekly called the 'Mahi Kantha'. Shri Gangaram Shukla had also started Praja Mandal in Idar State also and united the people against the rulers' reign of terror. He was charged for treason and sentenced to 6 years' rigorous imprisonment in Himatnagar Jail. In 1938 A. D., he was again sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment for giving lectures and writing articles against the State. His land admeasuring two hundred *bighas* was confiscated by the State. Besides him Shri Amritlal Trivedi, Kanubhai Raval and Bhadrakumar Yajnik were also the leaders of the Idar Praja Mandal.

Shri Mathuradas Gandhi became the President of the Idar Praja Mandal in 1944 A. D. In 1946 A. D., in all 7600 members were enrolled by Praja Mandal. The executive committee of the Praja Mandal passed a resolution on 15th January, 1948 for the merger of the State of Idar with the Bombay Province.

Integration of States

The possibility of grouping the Gujarat States into a single State as in Kathiawar was considered, but it had to be ruled out as the territories were interlaced and interspersed with the Baroda State territories and with the Ahmedabad and Kaira districts of Bombay. The Gaekwad of Baroda had expressed himself against the formation of a Union of Baroda with the Gujarat States. After prolonged discussions with the Rulers of Gujarat States and popular leaders of the States, the Maharaja of Rajpipla expressed, on behalf of other rulers, the desire to integrate their States in the following words :

> "Gujarat looks up to us to make all sacrifices in the wider interests of India as a whole We, therefore, have cheerfully responded to the call of duty and decided to take the first step in forming the province of Maha Gujarat by integrating our States with the province of Bombay".

In pursuance of the instruments of merger signed by the Rulers,[2] the administration of these States. was taken over by the Government of Bombay

1 Government of Gujarat, *Swatantrya Sangramna Ladvaiya*, Ahmedabad, (1969).

2. Government of India : *White Papers on Indian States*, Ministry of States, (1948), p. 42.

on the 10th June, 1948. The talukas and thanas of Rewakantha and Mahikantha were dealt with on the same basis as in Kathiawar and their administration was handed over by the Regional Commissioner to the Bombay on behalf of the Government of India.

The another important step taken in the direction of a Gujarati-speaking States was the integration of the former Gujarat States Agencies in Bombay. It was evident that the continued existence of these numerous administrative units was not possible and desirable from the point of view of administrative efficiency as well as the satisfaction of the political aspirations of the people. The Mahikantha Praja Sangh, therefore, passed a unanimous resolution in January, 1948, asking for the merger of the estates and talukas with Bombay. The resolution declared that the areas were very backward and by themselves would not be in a position to achieve any progress or carry on progressive administration. It may be pointed out that the merger of the Dangs and certain estates included in the Vatrak Kantha Thana of the former Gujarat States Agency with Bombay clearly indicated that the time was ripe for the absorption of the remaining States in Bombay. It was considered that the best way to tackle the problem was to integrate the States with Bombay which would pave the way for the consolidation of Gujarati-speaking people.

ANNEXURE[1] I

Security Bond of Sixteen Articles, taken by Lieutenant Colonel BALLANTYNE, on behalf of the British Government, from the Chiefs of the Mahi Kantha, in the year 1812.

We, Thakoor Koonwur
brothers, nephews, and inhabitants of
together with those bearing arms, and dependant on the Zilla.

According to the custom of the country we have received the orders of Government as subjects to be obedient, and to live peaceably and orderly. We agreeing, thus do of our own accord write the Articles of Zamin, Fuel Zamin, Ar Zamin, Hazir Zamin, and Mal Zamin, as follows :

Article I

We will not be guilty of any violence, theft, &c. nor will instigate others to such acts, in any part of the country. We will not associate with, nor instigate others to associate with outlaws, whether-Koolees, Rajputs, Mussulmen soldiery, Kattees, or other offenders. We will not give them shelter, nor food, nor hooka, nor water ; if these come into our villages, we will seize and give them up to Government ; if they should be passing through our boundaries, we will pursue, seize, and deliver them up, and then act as Government shall order. We will not in any way assist disturbers. Should we be detected in having anything to do with them, we will be answerable to Government.

If the footsteps of thieves are traced into our boundaries, we will carry them forward, and deliver them over to the next village : if the thief should belong to our village, we will hand him over to Government, and the property stolen. Should we know that the people of the next village are engaged in any unlawful acts, we will make it known ; if we do not, we will answer for it ourselves If any of our people go into the Company's Districts, or into any other Talooka, to steal, we will be answerable ; if the thief should be killed in the act, we will not make any claim, nor raise any feud on that account.

Article II

The management of our Talooka and land shall always be conducted in obedience to Government, as hitherto

1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XII-New Series :

Memoir on the Mahi Kantha prepared in May, 1845, by Captain J. R. Keily, Bombay, (1855), pp. 282 to 287.

Article III

We agree to the arrangement of Government regarding the dues of Ghansdana, Jumabundee, Kitcheree, and other lawful demands: in that manner we will pay them annually. The Government dues and certain dues to Zumindars, are payable by us: and we have given bankers' security for their payment; in that manner we will pay without fail.

Article IV

Should we have taken possession of any Zumindar's land or village through his weakness, we will give them up at the Government order, on reasonable terms. Should we have obtained any one's land or villages by a loan of money, we agree to its being redeemed in any reasonable way Government may decide on and lay no claim on the land, nor will we dispute with the owner of the village about it. Should there be any dispute on money transactions, either now or hereafter, we will refer it to Government, and abide by its decision, but will not quarrel direct with the parties, nor accumulate any expense on them; nor without the consent of Government will we purchase or take in pledge or present, any lands, Geeras, or village.

Article V

We will not quarrel, nor fight, nor instigate others in our Talooka, with our relatives, or amongst ourselves. If there should be any disturbance of this kind, we will refer it to Government and abide by its decision: we will not act for ourselves in any thing If any villages quarrel, or collect a mob, we will have nothing to say to it. If there should be a Government Thana, now or hereafter, as they shall tell us, so will we do.

Article VI

Our lawful dues, Geeras Wanta, Vole Daan Rukhoopa, whatever we have always enjoyed, and claim either in the Company's Districts, or in Talookdars' or Zumindars' lands, we will give a detailed account of such to Government; and as Government shall provide for its payment we and our children, to the latest posterity, shall abide by. What Government will give we will receive with gratitude. Should there be any boundary dispute, it shall be referred to Government; what shall seem reasonable to Government to decide, we will agree to.

Article VII

If any Geerasia shall come to live in our Talooka, and shall not receive his Geeras Run Wutia,[1] Pusaceta,[2] we will inform Government, but will

1. Blood compensation.
2. Land held free of rent.

not allow him to proceed to violence direct : if we fail in this, and anything happens in consequence, we will be answerable, or we will hand over such Geerasia to Government. We will take care that no servant of ours, while in our service, being discharged, shall, under pretence of claim on us, create any disturbance, be he Rajpoot, Kolee, or other; or we will be answerable.

Article VIII

We will not impede any merchant or traveller going or coming; we will protect the roads. If any loss is incurred in our boundaries, we will expel and hand up the author to Government, and be answerable. We will not levy more than ordinary transit dues on any persons.

Article IX

Should there be any Seebundee, horse and foot, in our service, whether Sindees, Arabs, Mekranees, or other foreigners, we will discharge them; and we will not maintain foreigners in future nor allow others to do so. If we shall be prove to do so hereafter, we will be answerable, and we agree to any punishment Government may inflict.

Article X

Should we have given to any one from our paternal estate or shares of our brotherhood any Geeras Wanta, Pasaeeta, in payment of loan, or compensation of blood, or Inam, we will not resume it without repayment or compensation.

Any Geeras or land given for the maintenance of our brothers or relatives, which they have always enjoyed, shall not be resumed; if in these things there should be any dispute, it shall be referred to Government, and any reasonable order obeyed

Article XI

If any one in the Company's service, or any troops be coming or going, we will guard and watch them while on our boundaries; and, according to the custom of the country, will give them guides, and guards to escort them beyond our boundaries.

Article XII

If the Koolees of our boundaries have any horses, it shall be made known to Government; and as orders shall be received, they shall keep them or not. If we offend Government, and Government take our horses from us, we can lay no claim on that score.

Article XIII

We will not allow any one to smuggle Opium without a Purwana from Government, sealed. Should it be attempted, we will seize it, and report it to Government, and as Government shall order, so will we do.

Article XIV

If any Mehta or Sepoy shall come to superintend at our villages, we will show all our papers and accounts, and will not refuse.

Article XV

For any past robberies, if any footsteps have been brought to our village, or the thief is proved to be in our village, or the stolen goods are proved to be in our village, we will restore the whole, and be answerable to Government.

Article XVI

Besides the above Articles, we will obey any orders of Government If for any money matters, or any business, or to give evidence, any person is required, we will produce him.

In this manner we have written 16 Articles, and we and our posterity will abide by them : if we fail herein, we will abide by such punishment as Government may inflict. For adherence to these Articles, our country and lands, Geeras and Revenue, are our securities for our good conduct. Bharote of the Purguna is Fuel Zamin, Hazir Zamin, and Mal Zamin, and Thakoors of are our counter securities, together with their villages. As above written, every year and for ever, these shall be answerable, and make us so.

Memorandum The following Chiefs in the Mahee Kantha are bound by the foregoing General Engagement of 16 Articles.

Watruk Kanta

The Chief of Ghorasur
„ „ Bharmooara
„ „ Khural
„ „ Poonadra

The Chief of Jher
„ „ Neermalee
„ „ Satoomba
„ „ Amleeara

Byul Purguna

The Chief of Lohar
„ „ Sametrye
„ „ Wuroda

The Chief of Dubora
„ „ Wasna Dolarana
„ „ Hursolee

Byul Purguna—*contd.*

The Chief of Khanpoor
" " Kulianjee na Mooara
" " Rakheeal
" " Bhardolee
" " Sahibje na Mooara
" " Kurjodra
" " Sulkee
" " Seeawara
" " Leehora

The Chief of Hurukjee Mooara
" " Amrajee Mooara
" " Wutwa
" " Porda
" " Kuproopoor
" " Myheesa
" " Paloodra
" " Dana

Saber Kantha

The Chief of Elol
" " Detrota
" " Kheran
" " Hapa
" " Tajpooree
" " Derol

The Chief of Wuktapoor
" " Prempoor
" " Kudolee
" " Peethapoor
" " Mansa
" " Wursora

Rehwur Zilla

The Chief of Roopal
" " Runasun

The Chief of Mohunpoor
" " Dudalya

Nanee Marwar

The Raja of Idur
" " Ahmednuggur
The Chief of Wurasa Tintor
" " Loonawara*
" " Wulasna
" " Malpoor

The Chief of Danta
" " Soodasna
" " Ghurwara
" " Hurol
" " Chandup Golawara

Kankruj Zilla†

The Chief of Thura
" " Kakore
" " Sumaoo
" " Sudurpoor
" " Seeoree

The Chief of Wurra
" " Khemana
" " Moondeta
" " Baderwalee
" " Bhulgaum

*The affairs of this chief are now conducted under the control of the Political Agent in the Rewa Kantha.

†This Zilla has subsequently been transferred to the charge of the Political Superintendent of Pahlunpoor.

Kankruj Zilla—*contd.*

The Chief of Moondeta no Nes
" " Zabria
" " Oombree
" " Raner
" " Edurmana
" " Bhunduramlee
" " Loonpoor
" " Ranikpoor
" " Woon

The Chief of Kumbole
" " Bookolee
" " Urneewara
" " Chutrala
" " Angunwara
" " Chapra
" " Varjer
" " Ambulra no Nes

Kuthosun Zilla

The Chief of Kuthosun
" " Soowala
" " Nundasa
" " Jakasun
" " Zotana
" " Ejpoora
" " Ajubpoora
" " Gumanpoora
" " Kusulpoor
" " Paluj
" " Tulewee
" " Visroda

The Chief of Ratayc Nanee
" " Moolajee Poora
" " Ratayee Motee
" " Tejpoora
" " Gokulpoora
" " Rampoor
" " Santhul
" " Mugoona
" " Mahmudpoor
" " Delolee
" " Jateepoor

Mahee Kantha

The Chief of Bhadurwa*
" " Oometa*

The Chief of Unghur*

Sowlee Purguna

The Chief of Ryeka*

The Chief of Dorka*.

* The charge of these estates has been subsequently transferred to the Political Agent in the Rewa Kantha.

ANNEXURE II

Important Historical Events

Sl. No.	Date	Event
1	2	3
		Ancient Period
1	3rd Century A. D.	A great *vihara* (Monastery) for Buddhist monks was constructed at Devni Mori in the Bhiloda taluka.
2	640 A. D.	Hiuen Tsiang had visited the region around Vadali in Idar taluka.
		Medieval Period (1298 to 1812 A. D.)
		Muslim Period
3	1298 A. D.	The beginning of the Turkish Rule in Gujarat commenced in the district with Ala-ud-din's campaign. The Turkish army entered the plains and encircled the fort of Modasa. The invasion was an important political event in the district.
4	1393-94 A. D.	Zafar Khan attacked Idar, an important Rajput State in the district.
5	1426 A. D.	Sultan Ahmad Shah I invaded Idar and launched an offensive against Rao Punja.
6	1511-26 A. D.	Sultan Muzaffar (II) marched in person to Modasa and drove Raja Bhimsing of Idar into the hills.
7	1573 A. D.	Raja Bhagawandas was sent by Emperor Akbar to subdue Rao Narandas of Idar.
8	1679 A. D.	Muhammad Amin Khan, the Viceroy of Mughal Emperor sent one of his officers, named Muhammad Bahlol Sherwani to storm the citadel of Idar, and to drive out Rao Gopinath.

ANNEXURE II—*contd.*

Sl. No. 1	Date 2	Event 3
		Maratha Period
9	1728 A. D.	Damajirao made many campaigns against the Raja of Idar whom he reduced to the status of tributary.
10	1766 A. D.	The Baroda army under Appa Saheb came to Idar and demanded from Shivsing half of the territory of Idar as belonging to his uncle Raising who had died without male issue.
11	1778 A. D.	The Peshwa's deputy at Ahmedabad with the help of the brother of Surajmal, one of the Idar proprietors levied a tax in Idar named *ganim ghoda vero* or Horse cess.
12	1802 A. D.	The Gaekwad's revenue collecting force came from Kathiawar and encamping at Siddhapur summoned Gambhirsing to pay arrears of the tribute. Moreover, tribute's name was changed from the enemy's horse *ganim ghoda*, to the grass and grain, *ghas dana* cess.
		British Period
		Mahikantha Agency
13	1812 A. D.	The first intervention of the British in the Mahikantha dates from 1812 A. D., when Major Ballantyne, Assistant Resident effected a settlement of Gaekwad's tribute. In the same year he took a bond of Sixteen Articles from the Chiefs of Mahikantha.
14	1818 A. D.	The Peshwa's possession having, by conquests, fallen to the English, the latter came into close connection with the Mahikantha Chiefs.
15	1820 A. D.	The Gaekwad handed over the management of the Mahikantha by an agreement dated 3rd April, 1820 A. D.

ANNEXURE II—*contd.*

Sl. No. 1	Date 2	Event 3
16	1821 A. D.	Governor of Bombay visited this territory, and established the Political Agency to secure peace and collect the tribute of Gaekwad.
17	1822 A. D.	A Security bond of Eleven Articles was executed before Major Ballantyne by most of the Mahikantha Chiefs.
18	1830 A. D.	A bond of 19 Articles was signed by all the Chiefs of Mahikantha before Colonel Miles, acting Political Agent. This was a bond between the Chiefs of Mahikantha and British Government to respect levy of *Ghasdana*, Jamabandhi, etc., and customary dues of Jamindars and not to resume giras, wanta, pasayata already assured.
19	1833 A. D.	The practice of 'Sati' had become very general throughout the Mahikantha Agency. The Political Agent Mr. Erskine banned it.
20	1835 A. D.	Sir James Outram was appointed to put down the state of lawlessness.
21	1836 A. D.	The Political Agency in the Mahikantha was amalgamated with Residency in 1829. However, in 1836 the Political Agency was re-established.
22	1838 A. D.	Sir James Outram instituted Border Panchayats for the settlement of the numerous blood feuds and disputes between, the wild Bhils on the Mahikantha and Rajputana frontier.
23	1839 A. D.	A court of criminal justice was established for the trial of all serious offences
24	1843 A. D.	A proclamation was issued on 21st September, 1843 directing that the village or the taluka in which the custom of 'Sati' might occur should be placed under attachment.

ANNEXURE II—*concld.*

Sl. No. 1	Date 2	Event 3
25	1857 A. D.	The village of Chandap in Idar taluka revolted.
26	1858 A. D.	The Thakor of Mudeti rose in revolt against the Darbar of Idar and the British Government.
27	1876-77 A. D.	A scheme for classifying chiefs into seven classes and grading their judicial powers received the sanction of the Government.
28	1885-86 A. D.	The Gaekwad contingent was disbanded and regular mounted and foot police were employed in their place from the subsidy paid by Baroda.
29	1886-87 A. D.	Total abolition of transit dues throughout the Agency was effected.
30	1925 A. D	Shri Mathuradas Gandhi called a meeting of the Residents of Idar and established 'Praja Mandal'.
31	1933 A. D.	The Sabarkantha Agency with headquarters at Sadra Civil Station was constituted by the amalgamation of the Mahikantha and Banaskantha Agencies.
32	1944 A. D.	The Sabarkantha Agency was abolished in 1944. Morever, with effect from 5th November, 1944 Western India States Agency and the Baroda and Gujarat States Agencies were amalgamated, and the combined Agency was called the Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Agency.
33	1948-49 A. D.	In pursuance of the Instruments of Merger signed by the Rulers, the administration of States and Estates was taken over by the Government of Bombay on 10th June, 1948.

PART III

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

GROWTH OF POPULATION

The population of the Sabarkantha district was 329,865 in 1901. In 1961, it rose to 918,587 (rural 857,379 and urban 61,208) recording a rise of 178.47 per cent during the last sixty years. There was no significant rise in the population of the district between 1901 and 1921 due to outbreak of plague and influenza epidemics in 1918-19. From 1921 onwards, there was a steady and progressive increase which rose as high as 34·29 per cent during the decennium 1951-61, higher than the State average of 26·88 per cent and the all-India increase of 21·51 per cent. The unprecedented growth of the number between 1951 and 1961, the highest since 1901 can, however, be reasonably attributed to the progress and development that has taken place in the district since Independence, as also to the decline in the death rate, accompanied by steady improvements in the medical and public health services under the Five Year Plans The decennial growth of population between 1901 and 1961 for the district is given in the statement that follows :

STATEMENT III·1

Variation in Population during 1901-1961

Year 1	Population 2	Decade variation 3	Percentage decade variation 4
1901	329,865	..	..
1911	373,812	43,947	+13.22
1921	412,046	38,234	+10.23
1931 . ..	489,056	77,010	+18.69
1941 .. .	572,948	83,892	+17.15
1951	684,017	111,069	+19.39
1961	918,587	234,570	+34.29
1901 to 1961	..	588,722	+178.47

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 10.

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DENSITY

According to the State Survey Department, the area of the district in 1961 was 7,083·6 sq. kms., or 3·85 per cent of the total area of the State. The density of the population thus comes to 130 persons per sq. km. (urban 1,734 and rural 121), as against 112 for the State. The urban density is naturally higher than the rural, where the pressure of population is comparatively less and the average density is worked out on the basis of the entire area within the revenue limits of the village and not of the village site.

These densities differ for different parts of the district as also for its rural and urban areas as will be seen from the following table.

STATEMENT III·2

Density of Population, 1961

State / District / Taluka / Mahal	Total / Rural / Urban	Population Per sq. km
1	2	3
State	T	112
	R	94
	U	1,444
District	T	130
	R	121
	U	1,734
Idar	T	139
	R	130
	U	4,168
Khedbrahma	R	91
Vijaynagar	R	72
Bhiloda	R	133
Himatnagar	T	163
	R	132
	U	5,345
Prantij	T	174
	R	165
	U	793
Modasa	T	135
	R	119
	U	2,678
Meghraj	R	90
Malpur	R	110
Bayad	R	147

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha.

The highest average density per sq. km. (174) is found in the Prantij taluka and the lowest (72) in the Vijaynagar mahal. In rural areas Prantij taluka is the densest (155). Among the urban area, Himatnagar tops the list with 5,345 persons per sq. km. and Prantij ranks last with 793.

RURAL/URBAN DISTRIBUTION

The population figures for the last sixty years indicate a comparatively greater increase in rural population as compared to the urban suggesting slow pace of urbanisation. the increase in rural population is partly due to migration from other parts of the States, because of availability of cultivable land from the waste-land of forest.

STATEMENT III·3

Urban and Rural Population of the District from 1901 to 1961

Census year	Urban Population			Rural Population		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1901 ..	25,736	12,756	12,980	304,129	152,545	151,584
1911 ..	21,680	10,600	11,080	352,132	177,972	174,160
1921 ..	22,610	10,954	11,656	389,336	195,556	193,780
1931 ..	25,934	13,212	12,722	463,122	235,809	227,313
1941 ..	32,609	17,419	15,190	540,339	273,823	266,516
1951 ..	43,131	22,673	20,458	640,886	324,101	316,785
1961 ..	61,208	32,612	28,596	857,379	437,412	419,967

Source :
Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part II-A, *General Population Tables.*

From the above statement, it is apparent that during the period from 1901-61, the urban population has increased from 25,736 to 61,208, *i. e.*, 137·83 per cent and the rural population from 304,129 to 857,379, *i. e.*, 181·91 per cent. The major increase in rural population is during the decade from 1951 to 1961, presumably because of better medical facilities and hygenic conditions brought about by development programmes under the Five Year Plans.

RURAL POPULATION

According to the 1961 Census, there are 1,537 villages in the district of which 37 villages are uninhabited. The total rural population of the district is 857,379 giving an average of 572 persons per inhabited village, as against 824 in the State. Percentage distribution of rural population by size-group of villages is given below :

STATEMENT III-4

Percentage Distribution of Rural Population by Size Group of Villages, 1961

Size group	No. of villages	Percentage to total No. of villages	Rural population	Percentage to total rural population
1	2	3	4	5
Less than 200 .. .	441	29.40	50,243	5.86
200–499 .. .	511	34.07	168,232	19.62
500–999 .. .	317	21.13	220,313	25.70
1,000–1,999	173	11.53	240,107	28.00
2,000–4,999	54	3.60	150,561	17.56
5,000–9,999	4	0.27	27,923	3.26
10,000 and above ..	.	.	..	..

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 11.

Of the 1,500 inhabited villages, 952 or 63·47 per cent fall in the size-groups of population below 500 ; 490 or 32·66 per cent in the size-groups of 500-999 and 1,000-1,999 ; and only 58 or 3·87 per cent in the size-groups of 2,000-4,999 and 5,000-9,999. There is concentration of rural population in small or medium-sized villages. The medium-size villages predominate in the district. 173 or 11·53 per cent in the size-group 1,000-1,999 and only 58 or 3·87 per cent are large-sized villages of population 2,000 to 9,999. The tendency of village to grow in size and the concentration of rural population in medium and large size villages are noticeable from these statistics.

URBAN POPULATION

The Statement III-5 gives the number of towns classified by population.

STATEMENT III-5

Number of Towns Classified by Size Groups during 1901 to 1961

	I		II		III		IV		V		VI	
	100,000 and above		50,000 to 99,999		20,000 to 49,999		10,000 to 19,999		5,000 to 9,999		Below 5 000	
Year	No of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1961	.	..	..	..	..	..	4	53,692	1	7,516	..	..
1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10,939	5	38,082	..	..
1941	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	11,598	4	26,461	..	..
1931	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	21,421	2	9,3
1921	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	13,777	3	12,047
1911	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	12,545	3	15,306
1901	..	..	.	.	..	..	..	..	3	22,536	2	7,811

Source. *District Census Handbook* 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 12.

From the statement, it appears that during the past sixty years, the number of towns above 10,000 or in urban areas increased from five to six in the year 1951, while the same has come down to five in 1961 owing to declassification of one town (Vadali), as a result of change in the definition of urban areas. The existing towns are either headquarters of the taluka or centres of some industry. It is significant that in four talukas and two mahals (Khedbrahma, Bhiloda, Meghraj and Bayad talukas and Vijaynagar and Malpur mahals), there is no town. The urban population of 61,208 persons is spread over five towns, four in the size class IV and one in V. The average population of a town in the district is 12,242 persons as against 30,380 for the State. The extent of urbanisation is thus found to be comparatively less than that obtaining in the State as a whole.

Population of Towns

Name of town	Persons	Males	Females
Modasa	16,084	8,479	7,605
Himatnagar	15,287	8,561	6,726
Prantij	11,509	5,931	5,578
Idar	10,812	5,685	5,127
Talod	7,516	4,156	3,360

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha.

Displaced Persons

As a result of the partition of the country in 1947, some Muslim families from the district migrated to Pakistan, and Sindhi and Hindus families migrated to this district. The total number of such migrants to the district according to the 1961 Census was 146 (80 males and 66 females) of whom 49 have settled in urban areas and 97 in rural areas. The Government extended various facilities to rehabilitate them by giving financial and other facilities which included technical and vocational training, special priorities in recruitment to public services and loans to settle in petty business or trade.

Sex-ratio

According to the 1961 Census, the number of females per 1,000 males in the district was 954 which was higher than the similar ratio of 940 for the State. The proportion of females was comparatively less in towns (865) than in villages (960). The sex-ratio for Modasa (897), Prantij (940), Idar (902), Talod (808) and Himatnagar (786) is lower than the district average of 954. The urban areas with a sex-ratio lower than that for the

district average (865) are Talod and Himatnagar. This is due to Himatnagar having been the capital of the former Idar State and the present district headquarters.

The higher female ratio in Prantij is mainly due to the absence of male members who have migrated to towns and big cities like Ahmedabad for service or business.

BIRTH PLACE AND MIGRATION

The 1961 Census recorded that 199,330 persons (21·70 per cent of the population) were born elsewhere within the district. 7·32 per cent outside the district but within the State and 2·45 per cent outside the State. There has been a general tendency among the village people to go to nearby towns to earn their livelihood. Sex-wise distribution of migrants shows that 8·08 per cent of the male population and 35·98 per cent of the female population were born elsewhere but within the district and 5·70 per cent of the male and 9·02 per cent of the female population were born outside the district. The high percentage of female migrants is due to marriage migration resulting from girls leaving their parental homes after marriage, which appears to be mostly within the district. The proportion of females born outside the place of enumeration but within the district is as high as 35·98 per cent as compared to those born outside the district, but within the State which account for 9·02 per cent and those outside the State which account for 2·88 per cent only. The persons who migrated from Pakistan numbered 1,153.

STATEMENT III-6

Population by Place of Birth, 1961

Persons / Males / Females	Total population	Born in			
		Place of enumeration	Elsewhere in the district	Outside the district but in the State	Outside the State
1	2	3	4	5	6
Persons ..	918,597	629,503	199,330	67,254	22,500
Males ..	470,224	395,827	38,008	26,787	9,002
Females ..	448,363	233,676	161,322	40,467	12,898
Percentages					
Persons ..	100.00	68.53	21.70	7.32	2.45
Males ..	100.00	84.18	8.08	5.70	2.04
Females ..	100.00	52.12	35.98	9.02	2.88

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 12.

Marital Status

According to 1961 Census, 400.032 persons in the district were married, of whom 197,162 were males and 202,870 females. Persons who were not married accounted for 463.135 of the total population, males being 55·04 per cent and the females 45·56 per cent of their respective population. The widowed persons were 5·88 per cent and the divorced or separated 0·15 per cent only. The following statement gives the percentage distribution of males and females by age and marital status

STATEMENT III·7

Age and Marital Status, 1961

Age-groups	Never married		Married		Widowed, divorced / separated and others	
	Percentage of males to total males	Percentage of females to total females	Percentage of males to total males	Percentage of females to total females	Percentage of males to total males	Percentage of females to total females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total	**55.04**	**45.56**	**41.93**	**45.25**	**3.03**	**9.19**
0—9	100.00	100.00	..	.	..	..
10—14	97.04	91.40	2.94	8.57	0.02	0.03
15—19 .. .	76.21	35.37	23.54	64.22	0.25	0.41
20—24	31.69	1.93	67.19	97.08	1.12	0.99
25—29	10.39	0.41	87.53	97.38	2.08	2.21
30+	2.73	0.20	88.11	70.93	9.16	28.87

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 14.

The statement given above reveals that child and infant marriages still persist in the age-group 10-14 to the extent of 2·94 per cent for males and 8·57 per cent for females Among males, the age of marriage has risen to 20 years and above, as only 23·54 per cent of males in the age-group 15-19 years were returned as married. In the case of females, the marriageable age has gone well over 15 as disclosed by the fact that in 1961, 64·22 per cent of females in the age-group 15-19 years and 97·08 per cent in the age-group of 20-24 years were married. While 28·87 per cent of females of more than 30 years were widowed, divorced or separated, the similar percentage for males was 9·16 per cent only. These data reveal a state of society wherein women do not remarry, while males do.

Language

Gujarati is the mother-tongue of 96·96 per cent of the population of the district. The 1961 Census recorded 890.627 persons as Gujarati speaking.

Speakers of the other main languages included Urdu (16,871), Hindi (4,216), Rajasthani (2,255), Marwari (1,617), Sindhi (1,130) and Marathi (1,126). The number of speakers of other languages is insignificant. The Gujarati script used universally by the speakers of that tongue is very much akin to the *devnagari* script but unlike the *devnagari* script, it is written without the lines overhead.

Bilingualism—Gujarati, being the predominant language of the district, naturally claims the highest number also among its speakers as a subsidiary language, as it is the medium of communication with the local people by those whose mother-tongue is non-Gujarati.

According to the 1961 Census, the total number of persons speaking languages subsidiary to their mother-tongue was 33,436 or 3·64 per cent, who have returned between themselves as many as 19 subsidiary languages. The most important languages among them are Hindi (17,836), Gujarati (8,995), English (4,311), Urdu (1,395) and Marathi (284), followed by Sanskrit (238) and Arabic / Arbi (202). Among the Gujarati speakers (23,446), the general order of preference was Hindi, English and Urdu. For persons with Urdu, Hindi and Rajasthani as their mother-tongue, the most important subsidiary language was Gujarati.

LANGUAGE AND SCRIPT

As stated earlier, 96·96 per cent of the district population had Gujarati as their mother-tongue according to the 1961 Census.

Gujarati is one of the major languages of the Indo-Aryan family, and is derived, like other languages of the group from Sanskrit. Its history dates back to about one thousand years. The great scholar, Acharya Hemchandra (1087-1174 A. D.), who was a distinguished member of the court of the Chalukya Kings, Siddharaj and Kumarpal of Patan, has in his 'Prakrit Grammar' given numerous quotations from contemporary literature which can easily be regarded as specimen of the oldest Gujarati literature.[1]

The progress of the Gujarati language since the time of Acharya Hemchandra to the present day can be divided according to the late Keshavlal Dhruva into three periods, *viz.*, the first period from the tenth or eleventh century to the fourteenth, the second period from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century and the third period from the eighteenth century to the present times. The language of the first period may be called Apabhramsa or the 'ancient Gujarati'; that of the second period which is

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1. SANDESARA B. J. (DR.), Article on *Origin and Evolution of Language*, published in the *Souvenir of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress*, held at Bhavnagar in 1961, p. 101.

generally known as 'the old Gujarati', may be called 'mediaeval Gujarati', and that of third period may be obviously called the 'modern Gujarati'.[1]

The Gujarati vocabulary consists mostly of Sanskrit *tatsama* or *tadbhava* words. However, on account of the historical and social reasons, and contacts with foreigners due to its extensive seacoast and commercial contacts, it has absorbed words not only from the Persian, the Arabic, the Turkish, the Portuguese, the English and other foreign languages, but also occasionally from the Dravidian languages of the south India. There are in the Gujarati language, hundreds of archaic words of unknown origin called *deshya* which suggest contacts with diverse cultures of many races. But all these contacts reflected in the vocabulary have had no appreciable impact on the formation of the Gujarati language, which has acquired its structure from Sanskrit through Prakrit and Apabhramsa. In the course of its historical development, its structure had already taken definite shape, form and content before the commencement of the modern period.[2] Having regard to the distribution of the different linguistic features, it appears that the innovating areas in the last two or three hundred years have been the regions round-about Ahmedabad which was the centre of socio-economic growth and political capital, whereas the earlier innovating areas were in Saurashtra which was then the focal point of culture. Some earlier innovations from Saurashtra spread over the whole Gujarati speaking community, which indicate that some dialect of Saurashtra was at one time a prestige or standard dialect.[3]

All language communities contain areas of verying degrees of speech variation. The speech of one region having the seat of power or a religion, cultural or commercial centre spreads at the cost of other speech forms. Thus occur dialectal diffusions and language growth.

The Gujarati language has dialects or *bolis* which are only the spoken variants of speech, which include Charotari, Surati and Kathiawadi, etc. A slight local variation in speech and accent is, however, found in different parts of the district or in different communities which retain special features of their own. This has been reflected in the proverb " બાર ગાઉએ બોલી બદલાય, " *i. e.*, the dialect changes every twelve *gau* (38·62 kms.). Besides Gujarati, the other important languages spoken by the people in this district include Urdu (1·84 per cent), Hindi (0·46 per cent) Rajasthani (0·24 per cent), Marwari (0·18 per cent), Sindhi (0·12 per cent) and Marathi (0·12 per cent).

1. Presidential address by Dhruva Shri Keshavlal, in the second session of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, held at Bombay in 1907.
2. SANDESARA B. J. (DR.), Article on *Origin and Evolution of Language*, published in the *Souvenir of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress*, held at Bhavnagar in 1961, p. 191.
3. PANDIT P. B. (PROF.), Article on the *Language and Dialects*, published in the *Souvenir of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress*, held at Bhavnagar in 1961, p. 201.

The language spoken by the people of this district does not differ much from the standard Gujarati. Moreover, the impact of facilities for transport, diversification of occupations and urge for advancement in education, business and science has contributed much to stabilise the different dialects in the standard Gujarati. However, a standard language is not a completely stabilised language. It is exposed to the changes in the dialects; which contribute to the evolution of the standard language.

RELIGION

The district has a predominant Hindu population. The 1961 Census shows that as many as 862,024 or 93·84 per cent of the total population of the district were Hindus. Muslims numbered 43,558 (4·74 per cent), Jains 10,532 (1·15 per cent) and Christians 2,360 (0·26 per cent). Among others, 109 were Sikhs and 4 followed other religions and persuasions.

The following is the rural-urban distribution of the population under various religions distributed by sex.

STATEMENT III·8

Distribution of Population by Religion

Religion	Rural / Urban	Males	Females
Hindus	R	418,220	402,027
	U	23,062	18,719
Muslims	R	14,085	13,159
	U	7,600	7,914
Jains	R	3,473	3,759
	U	1,699	1,601
Christians	R	1,004	1,007
	U	216	133
Sikhs	R	24	15
	U	41	29
Buddhists	R	..	..
	U	1	..
Other religions and persuasions ..	R	..	..
	U	3	..

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 110.

Hinduism—Though the caste restrictions have tended to diminish with the spread of modern education and diversification of occupations the religious life of an orthodox Hindu is mainly governed by custom and tradition and the particular sect to which he belongs. The Brahmins are the followers of Shiva and almost all have household gods whose worship some members of the family must perform every day. The Brahmins are expected to perform *sandhya* (twilight prayer) at least once a day in the

morning, and repeat Gayatri or the Sun hymn. Generally, the Banias are Vaishnavas, staunch adherents of Shri Vallabhacharya who propounded the Bhakti cult, *i. e.*, the worship of Krishna by intense devotion. Instead of the sacred thread, both men and women wear round their neck a *kanthi* of small basil or *tulsi* (*ocimumbasilicum*) beads. The Rajputs, though partial to the worship of Shiva, are equally devoted to Shakti, the mother goddess. The agricultural and artisan castes are all god-fearing people, who worship some or the other deity of the Hindu pantheon, Rama, Krishna, Mataji or mother goddess in her numerous forms, Hanuman, etc. Beliefs in sorcerers, witches, the evil eye and bad omens still prevail in particularly among the tribal and other backward classes.

Shaivism—The main doctrine of Shaivism is the existence of one universal soul or *advaita* and of the individual soul or *jeevatma*. Adherents of Shaivism worship the deity under the name of Rudra, Shiva, Sadashiva, Shankara, Shambhu, Mahadeva, Neelkantha, etc., in their own houses, as also in the temples which are to be found in almost every village, town or city in this district. They use a transversed streak of three lines called *tripunda* on their forehead as a religious mark and use *rudraksha*, rosary. The Shiva worship has continued from the earliest times to be the cult of the Brahmins, though this deity is equally favourite with all other castes except the staunch Vaishnavas and the Jains. Towards the close of the eighth century, the Shiva worship was extended and popularised by Shri Adya Shankaracharya. He established in India four *mathas*[1] or monasteries, where he appointed his four principal disciples as *acharyas*, who were in their turn succeeded by their pupils to this day. The first head of this monastery was Mandanmishra, the famous *pundit*, whom Shankaracharya had defeated in philosophical polemics and who had taken *sanyasta* under the name Sureshwaracharya The present Shankaracharya, Shri Abhinav Sadchidanand Tirth, is the 77th in the line. The Shankaracharya of Dwarka wields great influence over the Hindus in all parts of the western India. He goes about from place to place within his jurisdiction, preaching and disseminating the doctrine of the Vedic religion. His is the gospel word in all religious matters affecting the followers of the Shaivism in Gujarat.

Vaishnavism Vishnu is the god of preservation and universal prosperity whose various incarnations or *avataras* literally mean his descent to earth for the good of gods and men. Of these, Rama, the seventh incarnation and Krishna, the eighth incarnation are most revered. Among the worshippers of Rama, the chief are Ramanandis and Ramasnehis, though he is also worshipped by the followers of other creeds. Vaishnavism prevalent in this district is the *pushti marg* or creed of spiritual nourishment

1. These four *mathas* are (i) Badrikedar (U. P.) in the extreme north, (ii) Rameshwar (Tamil Nadu) in the extreme south, (iii) Jagannathpuri (Orissa) in the east and (iv) Dwarka (Gujarat) in the west.

founded by Vishnu Swami and propagated by Shri Vallabhacharya. The philosophic doctrine it propounds is termed *shuddhadvaita* as distinguished from the *kevaladvaita* of Shankaracharya and *vishishtadvaita* of Ramanuj. It teaches that god, though eternal, is endowed with celestial form and all visible phenomena emanate from him. Building on this philosophical basis, Shri Vallabhacharya introduced love for god, devotion and an element of pleasure in divine worship, rejecting the austerity and hardship of other sects. Such epicurean principles began to assume unseemly forms which caused comments and criticism from various quarters and led to the appearance of such reformist religious sect as Swaminarayan founded early in the 19th century by Shri Sahajanand Swami (1781-1830) which has a large following all over Gujarat.

The Swaminarayan Sampradaya—The Swaminarayan Sampradaya which is a pure devotional movement was founded during the early decades of the nineteenth century by Shri Sahajanand Maharaj, well-known as Shree Swaminarayan, who tried to deliver Vaishnavism of those days from some of its corrupting influnces. The Faith which is named after its founder, possesses a large following all over Gujarat drawn from all classes of people irrespective of their original caste or creed. Gadhada in Bhavnagar district is one of the important centres, where the founder spent major portion of his life time and propagated his religious teachings.

The founder, Sahajanand Swami, was born at Chhapaiya, near Ayodhaya in 1781 A. D. From infancy, he showed a sort of aversion to leading a wordly life and evinced great regard for the study of the *shastras*. On the passing away of his parents, when he was aged eleven, he renounced the world and left his home in the garb of an ascetic. For nearly seven years, he practised severe penance and visited various centres of pilgrimage in India. At this time, he was known as Nilkantha Brahmachari. In 1800 A. D., he arrived at Loj in Mangrol taluka (Saurashtra) in search of a true *guru* where he met Swami Ramanand who initiated him in his quest of the Supreme Being. By the force of his exemplary character and attainments, and life of intense asceticism, he endeared himself to his spiritual guide who appointed him Acharya or Head of his followers before his departure from this world in 1801. Nilkantha Brahmchari was then renamed Shri Sahajanand Swami, popularly known as Swaminarayan. He made primarily Saurashtra, Kutch and Gujarat, the field of his religious activities which he carried out with great vigour and energy. Though the religious doctrines preached by him were in no way distinct from those preached by the Vaishnavite Hinduism, his criticism of the immoral practices of the day and advocacy of a life of purity and piety evoked much opposition from the vested interests. But Shri Sahajanand Swami carried out his holy mission with unique success, which greatly increased the numerical strength of his followers. He preached the worship of and faith in one god, who was Krishna, who alone could deliver the soul from

the fetters of the body. The real value of his work as a spiritual reformer lies in his throwing open the portals of his discipleship to all strata of society irrespective of their caste and creed, Hindus and Muslims, higher and lower castes, worshipped god under the spiritual guidance of Swaminarayan. The civilizing influence of this religion in reclaiming to the path of virtue, honesty and truth, those turbulent castes like the Kathis, and other down-trodden sections and subduing their predatory and blackmailing activities converting them as loyal citizens of the State was profound and permanent.

Realising the necessity of creating suitable centres from where the preaching could be conveniently carried out, six great temples of beautiful architecture were built on sites that were extremely well chosen at Ahmedabad, Dholera (Ahmedabad district), Vadtal (Kaira district), Bhuj (Kutch district), Gadhada (Bhavnagar district) and Junagadh.

Shri Swami Narayan recognised the stages of spiritual development by creating different orders, *viz.*, (i) for the ecclesiastics and (ii) for the laity. He also created a class of nuns who are styled *sankhyayoginis* or female devotees

Doctrine and Philosophy of the Sampradaya--The first and foremost amongst the works of the Sampradaya is the Shikshapatri or Code of Conduct containing two hundred and twelve verses written in Sanskrit for the various classes of devotees. It aims not only at the moral and spiritual uplift of the adherents, but also gives practical guidance for the conduct of the individual in his daily life.

On the philosophic side, the Swaminarayan Sampradaya has adopted the *vishistadvaita* or qualified Monism doctrine of Ramanujacharya, and on the ritualistic devotional side, it has taken a leaf from the *pushti marg* of Vallabhacharya in the form of the worship of Shri Krishna. The Vachanamruta giving the religious and philosophical talks of Shri Sahajanand Swami to his disciples, is an excellent work in simple Gujarati embodying his holy teachings. He struck at the very root of impure mixing of sexes by ordering separate *darshan* facilities in temples and religious meeting of males and females, and thus put a wholesome restraint on those immoral practices which he had seen in other Hindu sects, which allowed free mixing of the sexes.

After achieving such a marvellous spiritual work within a short span of thirty years, he passed away leaving a vast and rich heritage of spiritual wealth on 1830 A. D., at the age of 49.

Jainism The Jainism preaches *tapa* or austerity, control of the mind and passions, *ahimsa* and renunciation of all worldly pleasures and attach-

ments to attain *moksha* or liberation. The Jains worship the images of all the 24 *tirthankars* in their temples, wherein are also found images of Hindu gods and goddesses in some sides niches, at times under different names.

The Jainism has two major divisions, *viz*., Shwetambar and Digambar. The Shwetambar monks put on white clothes and Digambar monks, move in a nude condition, having directions as their clothes. The major point of difference between the two divisions is whether the injunction to renounce all worldly possessions for achieving salvation should be carried to the extreme by dispensing even with clothes and practising nudity.

Islam—The chief articles of Islamic faith are belief in the unity of god, in His Angels, in His Books, in His Prophets, in His Government of the world, in good and evil as coming from Him, and in the day of Resurrection.

The Muslims in the district constitute a little over five per cent of the total population according to the Census of 1961. The Muslims are divided into two sects, *viz*., the Sunnis and the Shiahs. The former are more common than the latter. The group of Shiahs known as Ismailis or Agakhanis, whose Imam or religious head is His Highness the Agakhan, is also found among the Khoja community in the district.

CASTE

The Present Position of Castes

The main communities in the district are Hindus and Muslims. Among the Hindus, Brahmins, Banias, Kanbis, Rajputs, Kolis, Sathvaras, Sagors, Malis, Chhipa-Bhavsars, Ghanchis, Kadias, Suthars, Luhars, Darjis, Kumbhars, Kansaras, Salats, Kharadis, Saranias, Bhats, Charans, Targalas, Hajams, Khavas, Rabaris, Bharvads, Bhois, Kalals, Vanjaras, Thoris, Ravalias, Vaghris, Bajanias, Ods, Vadis, Dhadimirs and Jugglers are the different type of castes. Among the Muslims, Saiyads, Shaikhs, Pathans and Moghals are the main castes, while the Pinjaras, Bohoras, Molesalams are converted Muslims.

The Brahmins are mainly Audichya Brahmins and are concentrated in Himatnagar, Prantij and Idar talukas. In the changing social order, the Brahmins have lost their influence which they had in the caste hierarchy before, some are employed in Government service, some act as petty money-lenders, some are cultivators and a few enjoy grants of land, but the majority live on charity and serve as priests and cooks Many have migrated to Bombay, Poona and other places outside Gujarat. There are Tapodhans and Vyas, A few Tapodhans work as husbandmen, traders and servants ; the Vyas are cultivators. In matter of birth, marriage and death, they

follow the traditional system adopted by the Hindus. Generally Brahmins follow Shaivism, but there are a good number among them who follow the religions of Vaishnavism and Swaminarayan. They speak Gujarati.

Of mercantile, trading and shop-keeping classes, the Banias are divided in many sub-divisions among which Khadayata and Jains are chief sub-divisions. Their population is concentrated in Modasa, Prantij and Bayad talukas. The Jains are found mainly in Himatnagar, Prantij and Idar. They are mainly merchants, money-lenders, shop-keepers and traders who follow different branches of trade. At present they serve also as managers, accountants, clerks in Government, semi-Government and private organisations. Some of them own lands. They follow the social customs, as followed by other Hindus of the district. They generally follow Vaishnavism and Swaminarayan except the Shravak or Jain Banias who follow Jainism. They speak Gujarati.

The Patels, Kolis, Rajputs, Sathvaras, Sagors and Malis are the various classes among the cultivators. The Patels (Kadva, Leuva, Anjana, Charotaria (Kampawala) and Kutchhi) are found in Prantij, Himatnagar, Idar, Modasa, Bayad, Khedbrahma, Bhiloda and Malpur talukas/mahals. They are mainly cultivators. Among them, there is one class known as Anjana Patels who are of part Rajput descent. Those who do not work in the fields affect Rajput dress and manners.

The Rajputs are spread all over the district but concentrated in Prantij, Idar, Himatnagar and Modasa talukas. Formerly they were found in the service of the chiefs, some as personal attendants, others tilling lands. In 1821, Mr. Elphinstone described[1] the Mahi Kantha Rajputs as forming two classes, the Marvadis who accompanied the Raja of Idar (about 1700 A. D.) in his emigration from Jodhpur, and the Gujaratis who had long been settled in the province chiefly in the central parts. The Marvadis resembled the people of Jodhpur in their dress and manners. They were said to be very brave, but slothful unprincipled and devoted to the use of opium and intoxicating liquor. Those of Gujarat were more like the inhabitants of that province, more civilized than the Marvadis honest, more submissive, and more inactive and unwarlike. All the Rajputs used swords and spears, matchlocks and shields. They often wore defensive armour of leather both on themselves and on their horses, and sometimes but rarely carried bows. Their plan of war was to defend their villages. They seldom took to the woods like the Kolis and were quite unfit for the desultory warfare so suited to Koli habits. At present, they (Rajputs) are cultivators and also serve in different departments of Government organisation or institutions. In matter of social customs regarding birth, marriage and death, they do not differ from other Hindus. They follow Shaivism and Vaishnavism. They speak Gujarati.

1. *Minute*, 28th February, 1821.

The Kolis or Thakardas are mainly found in all the talukas except Vijaynagar mahal. They are poor, living as landholders, field labourers and village watchmen. Their chiefs are, with few exceptions, descendants of Rajput and Koli women, they still keep the names of their forefather's tribes, as Rathod, Chohan, Makwana. In 1821, Mr. Elphinstone described the Kolis or Bhils, for they were called indiscriminately by both names, as by much the most numerous and most important of the Mahi Kantha tribes. "The natives described them as wonderfully swift, active and hardy, incredibly patient of hunger, thirst, fatigue and want of sleep, vigilant, enterprising, secret, fertile in expedients and admirably calculated for night attacks, surprises and ambuscades." These qualities were probably exaggerated, but they certainly were active, hard and as remarkable for sagacity as for secrecy and celerity in their predatory operations. Their arms and habits rendered them unfit to stand in the field and they must be admitted to be timid when attacked; but they had on several occasions shown extraordinary boldness in assaults even on the British *thanas*. They were of an independent spirit and although all were professed robbers, they were said to be remarkably faithful when trusted and they were certainly never sanguinary They were averse to regular industry, exceedingly addicted to drunkenness and very quarrelsome when intoxicated. Their delight was plunder and nothing was so welcome to them as a general disturbance. The Kolis had a strong fellow-feeling for each other. The Kolis are divided in sub-classes like Thakardas, Makwanas and Rathods. At present they are cultivators and labourers In matter of social customs like birth, marriage and death they do not differ from other Hindus. They follow Kalika, Amba and other goddesses. They speak Gujarati.

There are two classes among manufacturers, *viz.*, Chhipa-Bhavsars (Hindus) and Ghanchis. The Chhipa-Bhavsars are found in Prantij, Himatnagar and Idar talukas. Formerly they were calico printers but now they are shop-keepers. Their social customs do not differ from other Hindus. In matter of religion they follow Vaishnava and Swaminarayan religions. They speak Gujarati language. The Ghanchis are mainly found in Prantij, Meghraj, Modasa and Bayad. They were formerly oil-pressers but now some of them do shop-keeping in addition to their traditional profession. Their social customs like birth, marriage and death are the same as the other Hindus. In matter of religion, they follow Islam They speak Gujarati.

Among the artisans, there are many classes like Sonis, Kadias, Suthars, Luhars Darjis, Barbers, Kumbhars, Kansaras, Salats, Kharadis and Saranias They are spread all over the district. Generally, they carry on their traditional occupations, but because of economic changes, spread of education and opening of various opportunities under the Five Year Plans they are also now found engaged in other occupations and services. In matter of social customs such as birth, marriage and death, they follow

other Hindus. They follow Vaishnavism, Shaivism and Swaminarayan religion. They speak Gujarati.

There are three classes among bards and actors, *viz.*, Bhats, Charans and Targalas. Formerly, they were bards, genealogists and strolling players respectively. They are generally found in the Prantij and Idar talukas. Generally they carry on their traditional occupations but now they also found engaged in other economic pursuits. In matter of the social customs like birth, marriage and death they do not differ much from other Hindus. They follow Vaishnavism, Shaivism and Swaminarayan religions. They speak Gujarati.

Of personal servants, there are Khavas. They are found in the Idar and Himatnagar talukas. They are servants. They cultivate lands also. They follow the social customs same as adopted by the Hindus. In matter of religion, they follow Vaishnavism and Shaivism. They speak Gujarati.

The Rabaris and Bharvads are the two classes among the herdsmen and shepherds. They are found in the Prantij, Bayad, Modasa and Himatnagar talukas. Generally they support themselves by the sale of sheep, wool, clarified butter and cultivation of land. They do not differ much in matter of social customs from the other Hindus. They follow Shaivism and Vaishnavism. They speak Gujarati.

The Bhois are the only caste among the fishers. They are found in Prantij, Modasa and Idar talukas. Though they are fishers, they cultivate lands also. They also grow *shingodi* (*trapa-bispinosa*) in the beds of ponds. In matter of social customs regarding birth, marriage and death they follow the customs of the Hindus. In matter of religion they follow Vaishnavism and worship goddesses. They speak Gujarati.

There are many sub-classes among the labourers like Kalals, Vanjaras, Thoris, Ravalias, Vaghris, Bajanias, Ods, Vadis and Dhadimirs. They are found in the different parts of the district. Among them the Kalals were formerly liquor sellers and the Vanjaras, grain carriers ; Thoris are bamboo basket-makers ; Ravalias, drum beaters ; Vaghris, fowlers and hunters ; Bajanias, acrobats, Ods, diggers ; Vadis, Jugglers ; and Dhadimirs, low-class actors. Their social customs are the same as those of other Hindus.

They worship goddesses. Their language is Gujarati.

A peculiar tribe of jugglers has settled in this district for generations. They are called Navnath Barapanth and are Hindus by caste. Originally they came from the Dhikai village near Jodhpur in Rajasthan. At present, they are found mainly in the villages of Khedbrahma, Bhiloda, Meghraj and Modasa. They eke out their maintenance by legerdemain. Besides, they keep serpents of different varieties for show. They hardly make a living by

cultivation of lands. They live in pitched tents. Some of them have been allotted house-sites in Bhiloda For making a living by jugglery, they visit far away places like Bombay, Poona, Delhi and Assam. Jugglers who cure persons from the snakebites are given fixed remuneration in kind by villagers in the form of *sukhdi* in quantity of 5 *seers* of maize and 5 *seers* of wheat per house.

They generally follow the Hindu customs, but in some respects, their customs differ. At the time of birth of a child, they call a Brahmin to ascertain the time and the *rashi* (planetary position) at the time of birth. Unlike the usual custom among the Hindus, the Brahmin name the child and not the aunt.

They generally take two meals a day. The food taken by them is very simple consisting of bread of maize, *dal* and *chutney* of chillies. They also eat maize-pudding. Although they eat neither *ghee* nor milk, they are healthy and strong.

In matter of dress, the male members put on the dress received from the people who are pleased by jugglery. They put on Jodhpuri Marwadi *paghadi* on their head. For women, they have to purchase clothes or ready-made dress. Generally, their women put on the Marwadi dress.

As for ornaments, the males use a silver *kadu* of Guru Maharaj and the silver *bedi* (anklet) on foot. While the women put on silver *chhada, kada, hansdi* and *vari*.

The marriages of boys and girls are generally arranged by parents. They marry their children before the age of 15 years. When both the parties agree, the *vivaha* (betrothal) ceremony is performed. At that time, the bride's father gives *kanku* and five rupees to the bridegroom. The bridegroom's father gives Rs. 160 to the bride's father for marriage. The marriages are fixed generally in the month of Bhadrapad. At the time of marriage, the Marwadi marriage songs are sung by women and the Marwadi dances are performed. By way of dinner, they serve *shiro* or *lapsi* as sweet-dish.

Divorce is permitted in the caste. In case of the death of the husband, the widow can remarry. The father-in-law of the widow gives her away in remarriage on payment of Rs. 600 by the father of the bridegroom.

In the case of the death ceremony, they bury the dead, but do not erect a tomb thereon, however, they put a stone on it. The rich construct a *deri* at the place of burial At the time of constructing a *deri*, they invite the relatives and take dinner together in which *lapsi* is the main item of food.

In matter of religion, they are Hindus and most of them follow the Swaminarayan religion and worship gods and goddesses like Shiva, Ambaji Mata, Chamunda Mata, Kalika Mata and Khodiar Mata.

Among the Muslims, there are four main divisions, such as Saiyads, Shaikhs, Pathans and Moghals. There are Hindu converts of the Pinjara, Bohora, Molesalam and other classes. They are found in Prantij, Himatnagar, Modasa, Idar, Meghraj, Malpur, Vijaynagar, Bhiloda and Khedbrahma talukas/mahals. They are traders, artisans, cultivators and labourers. They also serve in Government offices, private organisations or institutions. In matter of customs, they observe the Muslim social customs regarding birth, marriage and death. They are Sunnis and Shiahs by religion. They speak Gujarati.

The Scheduled Castes

According to the 1961 Census, the population of the Scheduled Castes in the district, was 78,486 (40,045 males and 38,441 females) forming 8·54 per cent of the total population of the district. The rural-urban distribution accounted for 75,950 persons (96·77 per cent) in villages, as against 2,536 (3·23 per cent) in towns. The following statement reveals the details of their sex-wise distribution of the population.

STATEMENT III·9

Scheduled Castes Distributed into Rural and Urban Areas, 1961

Name of the Scheduled Castes	Total	Males	Females	Percentage to total population of the district		Percentage of each Scheduled Caste population	
				Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total	78,486	40,045	38,441	8.27	0.27	96.77	3.23
Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Telegu Mochi, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Rohit or Samgar	28,261	14,498	13,763	2.92	0.16	95.02	4.98
Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar or Zadmalli	5,926	3,003	2,923	0.59	0.05	91.16	8.84
Garoda or Garo	3,485	1,754	1,731	0.36	0.02	95.35	4.65

STATEMENT III-9—*contd.*

Name of the Scheduled Castes	Total	Males	Females	Percentage to total population of the district		Percentage of each Scheduled Caste population	
				Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mahar, Talal or Dhegu Meghu ..	102	15	87	0.01	..	100.00	..
Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar or Maru Vankar	31,645	16,192	15,453	3.41	0.03	98.96	1.04
Meghval or Menghvar.. ..	191	83	108	0.02	..	100.00	..
Nadia or Hadi	1,768	897	871	0.19	..	99.94	0.06
Shenva, Chenva, Sedma or Rawat	5,494	2,811	2,683	0.60	..	99.80	0.20
Tirgar or Tirbanda	451	240	211	0.05	..	100.00	..
Turi	916	433	483	0.10	..	95.20	4.80
Unclassified	247	119	128	0.02	0.01	77.83	22.67

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 16.

The predominant Scheduled Castes in the district are Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar or Maru Vankar (31,645) and Bhambi or Bhambhi (28,261). Among them 98·96 per cent of Vankars live in rural areas and 1·04 per cent in urban areas ; while 95·02 per cent of Bhambis or Bhambhis live in the rural areas and 4·98 per cent in the urban areas. Next to these two castes, numerically important castes in the district, are Bhangi (5,926), Shenva (5,494), Garoda or Garo (3,485) and Nadia or Hadi (1,768). In religious practice and pattern of social life, the Scheduled Castes of this district have no special characteristics. They broadly follow the Hindu religion and customs like their counterparts in other districts of the State.

The Scheduled Tribes

According to the 1961 Census, the Scheduled Tribes claim 128,085 or 13·94 per cent of the total population of the district and 4·65 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes in the State. The main Scheduled Tribes in the district are Bhils (123,062), Naikda or Nayaka (2,515) and Dhanka (442). Details about the predominant Scheduled Tribes are given below.

Bhils—It has been said that the word 'Bhil' is derived from the word 'Bil' of the Dravidian language. The Dravidian word *billee*, means a bow, the characteristic and favourite weapon of Bhils. According to the Sanskrit scholars, the word is derived from the root *bhil* meaning to cut.[1] Bhils, notified as a Scheduled Tribes, are a martial people living in forest areas,

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI, No. 14, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, p. 7.

who were once feared and hated by the people of the plains, as Enthoven[1] so aptly points out. But, at the same time, the two have known each other from time immemorial through contacts or conflicts. Even the ancient religious literature has many noble and heroic Bhil characters.[2] Two things are, however, certain. There have been many Bhil kingdoms in the region of their present habitation, and when opportunities came their way, they also made inroads in the neighbouring plains, capturing and holding parts of them. Thus, expanding and receding, they went on till, in the long run, their power dwindled in proportion to the rise of the Rajput power and establishment of orderly and stable administration.[3]

The Bhils are hardy and enterprising, and as sagacious in daily conduct as they were secret and speedy when on one of their robbing expeditions. They speak a dialect composed of Rajasthani and Gujarati, which is extremely difficult to understand. They worship stones covered with red lead and oil. They believe firmly in witchcraft, and are much addicted to witch-swinging.[4]

The population of the Bhils in the district according to 1961 Census was 122,683 (61,354 males ; 61,329 females). The Bhils are mainly found in the Idar, Khedbrahma, Bhiloda and Meghraj talukas and Vijaynagar mahal. They are generally dark in complexion, the men muscular, well-built, and of a medium height, the women well made but of coarse with irregular features.[5] The Bhils have no village site or group of house. Each man lives in his field. The Bhil's hut is usually built of bamboos between supporting columns of wood and strongly plastered with grass and mud.

1. ENTHOVEN R. E., *The Tribes and Castes of Bombay*, Vol. I, 1920, p. 152.
2. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI, No. 14, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, p. 7.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XVII, 1908, p. 17.
5. According to Dr. B. S. Guha, a great Indian anthropologist, the Bhils bear peculiar features of the proto-ostoloid tribe.

   On the basis of the facial measurement and blood test of the Bhils, Dr. Majmudar of Lucknow Vidyapith concluded :

   " If blood groups do tell anything regarding race, origins and affiliation, the Bhils cannot be identified with any aboriginal group either pure-breed or hybrid ".

   " If the anthropometric data, which are being analysed corroborate the biochemical evidence, we shall have finally solved the problem of Bhil raciology. From the biochemical evidence and from general physical features, the Bhils stand distinct from the pre-Dravidian racial stock. I should think that the time has come when we should revise our entire ethnological nomenclature. The classification of the Bhils with the Kols and Santhals, I think, has been more for symphony than for fundamental ethnic similarity." Further, in the article on Bhils, Dr. Majmudar said ."The Bhils of Gujarat do not possess flat nose, thick lips, prognaphism and are neither of diminutive size. If they represent a mixed race, resulting from a mixture of pre-Dravidian traits have been greatly suppressed and the prevailing type is very similar to the Rajput and very remote from the 'A-nash' tribes of south India. Had I not been told that they were Bhils I could easily have identified them with the agricultural castes of the United provinces, the Koris, the Kurmis and even Thakors and others who certainly do not belong to pre-Dravidian stock. "

In former days, the Bhils were gatherers of wild fruits and forest produce. They were mainly hunters and did sporadic shifting cultivation by primitive methods, traces of which are still found. Traits of old nomadic life of hunting, gathering of wild fruits and forest produce and shifting cultivation are still found among them. Even today, Bhil would like to cut forest growth on a hill side and do cultivation on its slope which is a trait of shifting cultivation left in them.[1] In the past, there were almost several complaints of daring acts. Though they are still poor and somewhat unsettled, they are nor as a class given to serious crime.

Another important factor is their mixing with castes of other ethnic groups, mainly the Rajputs. Not only was Rajput blood mixed with Bhils to a large extent, but the latter imitated the Rajputs in many respects, the most notable being the adoption of their names and family names. No doubt these types of biological and social influences varied in their intensity from area to area, but in many places, the combined impact was so powerful that new ethnic groups which emerged refused to be known as Bhils, and took offence if the connection was hinted at. They either called themselves Rajputs or assumed new clan names that resembled Rajput names. This type of assimilation by imitation of another culture, consciously or unconsciously considered superior is, indeed, not uncommon, but it stops short of complete merging of the inferior race into the superior, and the 'advanced'. Bhils still retain the basic pattern of life common to the Bhils. The result is that they have lifted themselves above other sections of the tribe whom they eye with an air of superiority, though they have not quite reached the high pedestal which they covet. A new class thus has sprung up.[2]

Among the Bhils, one class, go by the name of the Dungri Garasias, literally meaning *jagirdars* or *inamdars* of the hilly areas. In this name again, the word Garasia establishes an affinity with Rajputs who comprise the bulk of Garasia communities in Gujarat, and the word *dungri*, while seemingly pointing only to their hilly habitats, distinguishes them from Rajputs. Nevertheless they never admit of being Bhils, pure and simple.[3]

A lofty name, however, does not help except in nursing pride about their social superiority, and does not change the environments. As will be seen, by and by, their social life, level of living, the extent of enlightenment, remain as primitive low and restricted, as that of other sections of the Bhils.[4]

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1. Based on the information received from Shri Dahyabhai J. Naik (President), Bhil Seva Mandal, Dohad.
2. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI, No. 14, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, p. 8.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*

Though the Dungri Garasias of Vijaynagar mahal are Bhils in origin, they have no social relations with Bhils in other districts, *viz.*, Panchmahals, Broach, etc. The Dungri Garasias are found in the neighbouring talukas of Bhiloda and Khedbrahma. A special Multi-Purpose Block has been functioning in the adjoining taluka of Khedbrahma since 1956 and some socio-economic surveys have been carried out and extension work undertaken in that taluka. It is, however, significant that the Dungri Garasias of Vijaynagar mahal are considered to have advanced more towards a settled agricultural life than other Bhils.[1]

The tribal people take food three times in a day. Their normal food consists of maize, pulses, wheat and mutton. Among non-vegetarian food, they prefer flesh of goat and buffalo. Generally they do not take milk or *ghee*. They only prefer oil. Among them, those who are Bhagats do not take non-vegetarian food. They eat *rotla* of maize with *chutney* or chillies. Sometimes they prepare *bhadku* or gruel by boiling maize flour in water and take it with butter-milk. On festive occasions, they prepare *rotla* (bread of wheat), *churmu*, *shiro* and *lapsi*, etc. They take wine on festive occasions. They are healthy and good archers and occasionally hunt with bows and arrows for foods.[2]

The Bhils are aware that drinking is prohibited by law, and yet several Bhils do not abstain from intoxicants. When they cannot drink in the village, they cross the Rajasthan border which is only very near and satisfy their thirst, as there is no prohibition there.[3]

Eating and smoking of tobacco is very common. *Chalam* or clay pipe finds favour with Adivasis as an important means of social intercourse. It is never smoked alone but in company of four or five persons, each of whom takes a few puffs and passes it on to the next, while gossiping about matters of common interest.[4]

The Bhils dress themselves in coarse and rough mill-made cloth. The dress of the menfolk consists of a *dhoti* and a shirt. The head is either kept bare or a piece of cloth is wrapped around it. They also generally put on indigenous shoes or *chappals*. Women put on a *sadlo* which is about 4½ yards in length, and *choli*, *kabjo* or *kapdu* as blouse. The petticoat called *chanio* or *ghaghro* has in most cases circumference extending upto 20 yards. The smaller petticoat only three yards in circumference, is called *fentiyu*. Red is the most favourite colour among the women. On festive occasions new clothes of the same type are put on. Girls are attired in frocks and boys

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI, No. 14, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, p. 8.
2. Patel G. D. (Dr.), *Sabarkanthani Lokganga*, (1966), p. 154.
3. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI, No. 14, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, p. 11.
4. *Ibid.*

in shirts. They have no need of a nether garment. Boys put on either *dhotis* or shorts and shirts while girls put on a *fentiyu* and a *kablo* with *odhanu* of 2 yards draped over the head.[1]

Their household goods are limited. Houses are mostly unfurnished except for the *charpai* or cot which is in common use. It generally has matting of bamboo chips instead of *nevar* or *kathi* string. It is a handy piece of furniture useful both for sitting, relaxing and sleeping. As for other articles, a few have chairs, benches, stools, tables, carpets, shelves and mirrors. Other household goods used by them are *chimnis* or ordinary lamps, torchlights, stove, bicycles and sewing machines. Maize and pulses are stored in earthen jars, and wheat and paddy in cylindrical jars prepared by knitting bamboo strips plastered with mud. A mixture of charcoal ashes and cow urine is mixed with grains to protect them from insects.[2]

Their household goods are limited. Outside may be seen, if the family is well-to-do, a pair or two of bullocks, or a bullock and a buffalo, a cow, or two goats and a number of fowls, a cart and agricultural implements such as a plough, a weeder, *kharpi*, a crowbar or ploughshare and *kodali*. In the past, the Bhils had no carts and some of them had no cattle. But after the introduction of the Tribal Development Blocks, financial assistance is provided for the purchase of bullocks and carts and several Bhils now own carts and bullocks. In the hut, besides the sleeping mat, the hand grindstone, and a roll of blanket or torn coverlet, there is nothing but some bamboo baskets and a few pots and cups, most of them of clay. Now with gainful employment, their purchasing power has increased and are able to purchase brass or copper vessels, food, clothes and foodstuffs.

The people are generally law-abiding. The only feuds which are known to them arise from the desertion by or abduction of their women. They are ignorant and improvident and lead a simple life with few wants.[3]

The Bhil Garasias speak a mixture of languages which draws abundantly from Gujarati as well as Marvadi and Bhili dialects. There is no separate script for their language.[4]

In the life of a Bhil, after birth, there are four chief ceremonies, *viz.*, naming, shaving, marriage and death. Five days after birth, the child and mother are bathed and the child is given a name. Between two and five years, the head of the child is shaved. The child's aunt takes the hair in

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI, No. 14, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, p. 10.
2. *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 11.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 12.

her lap and wrapping it in her clothes, receives a cow, a buffalo, or other present from the child's father. A well-to-do Bhil generally gets his son married at the age of fourteen or fifteen and his daughter, before she is twelve. But as a rule, marriage seldom takes place before the boy is twenty and the girl fifteen. The choice is made by the relations of the bride and bridegroom. In the morning of the marriage day, the bride and bridegroom, each at their own homes, are rubbed with yellow turmeric powder. The bridegroom is bathed and has his eyes and cheeks marked with soot. He wears a turban, a long coat of country cloth, a waist cloth or *dhotar*, and a sword. The party starts with a fanfare of drums and cymbals for the bride's village. The women follow singing in clothes of variegated colours. On reaching the bride's house, the bridegroom's friends are seated on one side of a *mandva* or booth, built in front of the door. The bride is then led in by her mother and seated opposite the bridegroom. Their hands are joined and the hems of their garments tied. Then while the women sing songs, the bride and bridegroom walk together twelve times round a branch of the *salyara* tree placed in the middle of the booth. When this is over, the bride and bridegroom feed each other with wheat bread and molasses. Then the knot is untied and after the party has taken a dinner, the garments of the bride and bridegroom are again tied and the bridegroom taking the bride with him returns to his house. The marriage expenses vary in the case of the bridegroom and the bride, according to their social status and economic condition. A man may marry a second or third wife in the lifetime of the first. An additional wife is taken out of economic necessity. A woman marries again, not only if her husband dies but if she gets tired of him, and can prevail upon another man to take her and pay her husband his marriage expenses. The children, if there are any, stay with the father. A Bhil youth and girl, anxious to marry but unable to find the necessary amount, not uncommonly arrange that he should elope with her on her way to or from some fair or a wedding feast. She then lives with him as his wife, and when her parents come in search, an agreement is made by the parents of the bridegroom for paying the dowry by instalments, or in some other way suited to the bridegroom's means.

When a Bhil dies, the relations, bathing the body, place a waist cloth *dhotar*, over it, and laying it on a rough bamboo bier carry it to the cremation grounds. The son or other nearest relation of the deceased, lights the pyre. When the body is half burnt, the mourners bathe and returning to the deceased's house, smoke tobacco for a short time, and after saluting each other, return to their huts. As soon as the deceased's family can raise enough money, the anniversary day is observed, when liquor is sometimes used. If the deceased was a man of substance, a year or two after his death, his relations go to a stone mason and make him cut on a stone slab the figure of a man on horseback with a spear in his hand. When the stone is so carved, the mason is paid by gift of a cow or she-

buffalo. The stone is washed, daubed with red powder, covered with a white cloth, and taken to the village spirit-yard or *devasthan*. There a goat is killed, its blood sprinkled on the stone, and its flesh cooked and eaten.

The Bhils worship female deities known as *mata* or *devi*. They also worship stones covered with red-lead and oil, and are firm believers in witch-craft and much given to the practice of witch-swinging. They revere the moon and swear by it and believe in witches and in the evil eye. Their chief objects of worship are spirits and ghosts. To these in the forests near an old tree, or often at some chance spot, they offer clay horses, jars and beehive-shaped vessels. In honour of the spirits in most of these spirit-yards, they also raise beams of timber, sometimes as much as twelve feet long poised on two uprights in the form of a rough seat. Here they offer a goat and a cock; and a number of Bhils gather together to eat the sacrifice and drink. Ravals act as their sacrificial priests. During the last ten years on the north-east frontier, some Bhils taking the name of *bhagats* have become the followers of a Bhil teacher Kheradi Surmal, a native of the village of Lusadia (Tabe Kuski) the Bhiloda taluka in the Idar State, about four kms., from Shamlaji.[1] The *bhagats*, and exorcists, *badvas*, who leaving their families give themselves upto a religious life. These men are much sought after for their power over ghosts and spirits. The animal they hold in much veneration is the horse. Their chief observances are in honour of the dead. Their only regular Hindu festivals are Holi (March), Dassera (September) and Divali (October). They fast twice in the year on Phalgun Sud II (March) and at the Holi (March).[2]

The members of the different clans live in the same village and intermarry. Each clan has its own head or *iadvadi* distinct from the Government *patel*. In each clan, disputes are settled by a caste panchayat or council of five Bhils This council settles marriage disputes, punishes breaches of caste rules, and when the offender is penitent, fixes the amount of the atonement fine. A man is put out of caste if he behaves improperly with the wife of a relation. For social segregation, the other Bhills do not eat, drink, or smoke with him. If he begs for pardon some of the leading Bhils of his village call two or three men of a sect called *vasoya* and cause him to give them a present of fixed amount in cash. If the *vasoya* allows him to drink or smoke with him, the offender is re-admitted into the caste. The Bhils have no games; but drinking is their source of great amusement. They sometimes play on a bamboo lute. But the chief musical instrument is the drum beaten at varying strokes according

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1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 366.

2. *Ibid.*

as the occasion is sad or joyful. A string instrument of the *sitar* type made of half a gourd with a bamboo handle and a single wire string is also sometimes used.

Inter-caste Relations—As in other parts of the country inter-caste relations were very rigid a generation ago. The members of different castes and sub-castes lived in close watertight compartments in such matters as inter-dining and inter-caste marriages. The picture has greatly changed especially after Independence and the changes that have occurred in recent times are noteworthy. Inter-dining is no longer looked upon with disapproval by Hindu anywhere in the district particularly in towns, though this restriction still persists in a diluted form in rural areas. Inter-caste marriages, though not very common, are more frequent than ever before and many of the traditional restrictions on marriage based on caste are gradually disappearing as a result of the spread of education, influence of western culture, equality of sexes and consequent removal of disabilities from which women suffered in the past.

SAINTS

The Sabarkantha district has been fortunate in having a few saintly persons who served the people irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Motivated by service to humanity they preached religious sermons for ennobling the life of the people. Their followers included people from all strata of society. Brief sketches of their lives are given below :

Shri Krishnaram Gulabram Vyas (1880 to 1969)—Shri Krishnaram Gulabram Vyas studied Sanskrit, *karmakand* and astrology at his *guru's* house according to ancient tradition of living on alms.

Shri Krishnaramji followed his *guru* Shri Paramhansa of Dungarpur in search of god. The *guru* then initiated him into the *agnihotra* when he was 38 years old.

There are two types of *agnihotra*. One is *smarta agnihotra*, which has only one *kund* (sacred fire) and the other is *shrautsmardhavidhan* which has five *kunds* (sacred fires). His *hotra* is of five *agnihotras*. Among these five *agnihotras*, the first *kund* is known as *ahavaniya*. God Vishnu is considered as its witness and *ghee* is poured into the fire, *i. e.*, *homa* ceremony is performed. The second *kund* is known as *grarhyapatya*, which is to be kept for ever and is the *adhisthata* of home (household deity) The third *kund* is *dakshinagni*, which has power to do good to the country. The fourth *kund* is *sabhya*, which is to be kept in perpetuity and is known to give knowledge. The fifth *kund* is known as *avasthya*, wherein *ahuti* of *ghee*, *jav*, *tal* and rice is offered. It is also to be kept in perpetuity.

Special conditions are attached to the *agnihotra.* Among these *agnikunds,* three *agnikunds* are (*akhand*), *i. e.,* to be kept for ever. An *agnihotri* should be married, because only a married person can be initiated into the *agnihotra.* In the absence of one, the ritual is to be carried on by the other partner. One of them has to be at the *hotra. Ishtiyag* is held twice in a month, one on the *purnima* day and the other on the *amavasya* day. The *hotra* is maintained on the voluntary contributions of the people (अयाचक व्रत — vow of non-begging).

Since initiation, he worshipped the five *kunds* at his home at Bolundra (Modasa taluka) for 18 years. Thereafter, he lived for twelve years in a hut built by him on the bank of the river Meshwo where he kept *agnihotra* of the five *kunds.* Then he decided to return to Bolundra-his home town in the Modasa taluka. During his absence, once thieves broke open his house at night. When the thieves were about to leave the house, his wife felt that proper hospitality was not extended to them. So she called them back, offered them tea and allowed them to go with the stolen property. When the Maharaj came to know of this incident, he realized that due to god's wrath, thieves came to his house, as he did not return to Bolundra after completion of twelve years. Thereafter, the Maharaj returned to Bolundra and built a new *ashram* after acquiring land outside the village. There is one *kund-Avasathya kund*-in this new *ashram* where fire-worship is still continued.

The Maharaj and his wife were known as 'Bapaji' and 'Ba' respectively among his disciples. The *agnihotra* is maintained for last fifty-five years. It is maintained on the principle of *ayachakvrutti* or *akashvrutti* (vow of non-begging).

The hospitality of the *ashram* is noteworthy.

One of three sons of Maharaj the late Shri Gaurishankarbhai, was a very famous astrologer. He also promoted educational activities by liberal donations and helped tribals. His second son, Shri Girijashankarbhai is also great astrologer and well-versed in the yogic practices. The third son, Shri Narmadashankarbhai is a great Sanskrit *pundit.*

After the death of the Maharaj in the year 1969, the *hotra* is continued by his grandson Shri Shukdevbhai, the son of the late Shri Gaurishankar.

Agnihotri Chunilal Harishankar Sharma (1898 to 1966)—Shri Chunilal Harishankar Sharma of Raigadh in the Himatnagar taluka worked as astrologer in Ahmedabad in the thirtees of this century. He left this profession at the age of 35. In March, 1934, he was initiated into the *hotra* by Shri Krishnaram Gulabram Vyas of Bolundra and established

the *agnihotra* at Demai (Bayad). At the site, there was wild forest, which he cleared this forest and established the *hotra* there.

The life of the Maharaj was as good as a *rishi's*. He did not take *ghee* and salt in food during all the years he maintained the *hotra*. He was of the opinion that—

अग्निहोत्र समो धर्मः न भूतो न भविष्यति ।

The religion of fire-worship is eternal. His pious spiritual life and astrological knowledge attracted the people of different strata of the society. His two sons, Shri Kapildev and Shri Rushiraj are well-versed in the Hindu culture and astrology. Shri Kapildev is a professional astrologer at Ahmedabad, while Shri Rushiraj is a professor of Sanskrit in the Arts' College at Modasa.

It is said that after receiving inspiration from god, he shifted the *agnihotra* from Demai to his native place Rajgadh (Himatnagar taluka), in October, 1964. It is said that when the Maharaj lifted and placed Shri Agninarayan Bhagwan on his head at Demai, the whole village was plunged into grief and with a heavy heart, they allowed Maharaj to shift the *hotra* to Rajgadh. The Maharaj maintained the *agnihotra* till he died on 29th September, 1966. Thereafter, it is maintained by his younger son Rushiraj.

SOCIAL LIFE

Social Customs : Hindu

Important customs observed by all Hindus are those relating to *simanta* (pregnancy), *upanayana* (thread-girding), *vivaha* (marriage) and *svargarohana* (death).

Simanta which corresponds to the *vedic samskara* of *simantonayana* is popularly known as *agharani* or *kholo bharvo* (lap-filling) and is performed at the husband's house to celebrate the woman's first pregnancy. This ceremony is not as elaborately observed these days as in the past. After the *simanta* ceremony, the expectant mother generally goes to her parent's house for her first confinement. On the birth of a child, the midwife cuts its navel cord and buries it in a corner of the compound in front of the house. On the night of the sixth day after birth, the *chhatthi puja* is performed, when, it is believed, that Vidhata or the Goddess of Destiny writes the child's future. Generally on the twelfth, but sometimes on some other suitable day, the child's naming ceremony takes place. On some auspicious day, usually in the third month of the birth, the mother returns to her husband's house with clothes, ornaments and a cradle presented to her and the grand-child by her parents.

The *upanayana* or *janoi* (sacred thread ceremony) as it is called in Gujarati is a *vedic samskara* involving various acts one of which is investing the *batuk* (boy) with a *yagnopavita* or *janoi* (sacred thread). For the *dwijas* (twice-born), *upanayana* is essential *samskara* (purificatory rite) which formally initiates one to *brahmacharyashrama*. Brahmins consider themselves by tradition entitled to the performance of these rites. Besides the Brahmins, Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Lohanas, Barbers, etc., put on thread now.

Marriage and Morals

Hindu *shastras* consider marriage as a *samskara* or a sacrament which calls for the performance of elaborate rites and ceremonies prescribed in the Gruhyasutras, to enable a person to enter *grahasthashrama*.

Marriage Ceremonies—Marriage cermonies are elaborate. Two to three days before the day of wedding, ceremonies regarding the *mandap muhurta* (erection of the marriage booth) and the worship of Ganapati and *gotraj* (family deity) are performed at the houses of both the bride and bridegroom. On the day of marriage or on the day previous, bride's maternal uncle and his wife bring presents (*mosalu*) for the bride and her mother. The presents to the bride consist of *panetar* her wedding sari and ornaments especially *chudo* (bangle) made of ivory to be worn at the time of wedding Similarly, the bridegroom also receives presents from his maternal uncle.

The marriage usually takes place at the bride's place. The *jan* or the bridal party starts in procession with a musical band or drummers and pipers in front with the bridegroom and women singing in the rear. If the bride belongs to another place, the further journey to the bride's villlage or town is performed by any convenient mode of transport. On their arrival at the destination, they are received ceremoniously by the parents of the bride accompanied by their male relations. The party is then taken to the place known as *utara*, specially reserved for their stay. Before the wedding procession starts, women of the bride's party go to the *utara* with *kalvo* consisting of sweets.

The wedding procession is usually a very grand affair. The bridegroom who is called *varraja* receives all the attention as if he were a king for the time being. He rides a horse richly capar'soned or sits in a horse carriage or a motor car. When the procession reaches the bride's place, a ceremony called '*Ponkhvu*' (પોંખવું) is performed in which a bride's mother waves a miniature plough, a grinding pestle and a churning stick, four times over the head of the bridegroom and places at the bridegroom's feet a *samput*, made of two earthen cups or *kodia* painted white and tied together with a red string so that their edges touch each other. The

bridegroom treads on the *samput* and breaks it to pieces and entering to booth takes his seat in the *mayaru* or booth specially decorated for the occasion.

The marriage rites and ceremonies to be performed at the *vivaha* or wedding are generally the same among all Hindus, though they may vary in some minor details according to the caste and region. The rites commonly in vogue are in order *kanyadana, vivaha homa, panigrahana, lajjahoma* and *saptapadi*. These are interspersed by a number of minor ceremonies such as feet-washing, honey-sipping, rice-throwing, moment-naming, present-making, oath-taking, etc.

In former times when child-marriage was prevalent, the bride did not accompany the bridegroom on his return home. This is not the case now. The bridal couple is received ceremonially at the house steps. They then together offer worship to the *matrukas, gotraj, rannadev* or any other nuptial deities that were installed in the household at the commencement of the marriage festivity. The bride and bridegroom then untie the *mindhal* (randia dumetorium) from each other's wrist, feed each other with *kansar* and play with *kodis* (shell money). With a *vadhamana* or thanks giving at the temple of the village deity, the marriage ceremony ends.

The Hindu *shastras* ordain that a person should not marry in his own *gotra* and within six degrees of relationship on the father's side and four or five on the mother's side. Only Brahmins, as they know their *gotras*, can abide by the rule of *gotra* exogamy. Usually, the *gotra* of the father alone and not that of the mother is considered when a marriage alliance is contemplated. Even this restriction has been showing signs of relaxation in recent times.

Moreover, a Hindu is supposed to marry within the same caste or sub-caste as a general rule. Any marriage outside is considered contrary to the caste custom. These restrictions are gradually loosening and marriages outside the caste and sub-caste are on the increase particularly among the advanced and educated classes.

The Hindu scriptures enjoin that the bride be given as a gift to a suitable bridegroom. This is called *kanyadana*. In course of time, it came to be associated with the giving of a dowry which caused acute hardship to the poor. In response to a strong agitation against the continuance of this social evil, an Act abolishing the giving or taking of dowry at the time of marriage was passed by the Indian Parliament in 1960, and any contravention of the provisions of this law was made penal.

Recent Trends—The social outlook of the people on marriage has considerably undergone change in recent times with the spread of educa-

tion assisted by social legislation and economic stress. A number of undesirable social practices which were strictly observed in the past are given up under the changed circumstances and in the atmosphere of freedom and independence which have set people thinking on fresh lines. The practice of child marriages which was common in the former times has well nigh disappeared and the age of marriage has substantially advanced both in case of males and females. In the case of males, the age has gone beyond 20 and in the case of females beyond 15. Child marriage has been declared unlawful by a Central Law. Most of the restrictions which were accepted as a matter of course and scrupulously observed in the past are being modified and relaxed to suit the modern trends of thought and ways of living. Inter-caste marriages have also started taking place among the younger generations especially in towns. Bigamy is prohibited by law and made penal. Widowhood is no longer considered a mark of social superiority with the result that widow marriages take place. Widow remarriage has ceased to be social taboo and stigma. Divorce is now permitted under the law and freely practised by some of the lower castes which permit them by tradition and custom. Its extent among the higher castes is comparatively less. Divorce is obtained by having recourse to a court of law as provided under the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955. Remarriages are, however, common among the lower castes where the custom known as *natra* is prevalent. Widow remarriage in the form of *diyarvatu*, that is to say levirate is permitted and practised among some of the lower castes, among whom a widow of an elder brother marries the younger brother of the deceased husband, irrespective of the difference in their ages.

The following statement gives details about never married, married, widowed and divorced persons in the district according to 1961 Census.

STATEMENT III·10

Marital Status

Marital Status	Total		Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total population	470,224	448,863	437,412	419,967	32,812	28,896
Never married* ..	258,835	204,300	240,480	191,406	18,355	12,894
Married ..	197,162	202,870	183,547	190,619	13,615	12,251
Widowed ..	13,320	40,729	12,511	37,514	809	3,215
Divorced or separated	905	462	872	426	33	36
Status unspecified	2	2	2	2	..	..

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 100.

*The figures include persons (1) who have not reached to age of marriage and (2) who, though attained the age of marriage, have not married for various reasons.

Death Ceremonies—Hindus consider it necessary to perform certain after-death ceremonies to propitiate the dead. Memorial rites or *shraddha* are performed from the tenth and continued till the thirteenth day after death. On the twelfth day is performed what is called *sapindikarana* whereby the dead severs all earthly connections and joins the *pitrakas* (manes). On the thirteenth day of the *shraddha*, various utility articles is used by the departed soul are gifted to the family priest so that the deceased may enjoy them in another world. During the first year, *maslo* (monthly), *chhamasi* (half yearly) and *varsi* (yearly) *shraddhas* are also performed.

Social Customs : Muslim

The Chief Muslim rites and ceremonies relating to pregnancy and birth initiation, and marriage are described below as followed by Muslims in general and Sunnis in particular.

The first pregnancy ceremony performed in the seventh or ninth month takes place at the husband's house. Thereafter, the expectant mother goes to her father's place. On the seventh, fourteenth or twenty-first day after child birth comes the purely Muslim rite of *akika* sacrifice which has two parts, namely, the shaving of child's head and the killing of one or two goats.

Bismillah ceremony which consists of taking the name of god, is performed when a child completes four years, four months and four days. The child is made to repeat, after the priest, the opening chapter of the Quran and the relatives are feasted to commemorate the occasion. The *khatna* (circumcision) takes place when the boy is six or seven years old. There is rejoicing and a dinner given in honour of a boy or a girl keeping his or her first Ramzan fast.

Marriage—In general, a Muslim marriage lasts for two to three days. On the day of marriage, the bridegroom's relatives go to the bride's house in a procession called *bari* or *sachak* carrying in trays gifts of sweetmeats, dried fruits, ornaments and articles of dress for the bride. The party comes back with their trays refilled with clothes for the bride-groom. Some time during the early hours of night, the groom dresses himself in wedding clothes and with a *sehra* (flower sheet) fastened round his forehead rides on a horse, and starts in a procession accompanied by friends and relatives with a musical band in front. At the bride's house the bridegroom is led to his seat. Then the *kazi* asks the bride's agent whether he accepts so and so as her husband in consideration of *meher* (dower) as decided If she assents he takes the declaration of two other witnesses. He then puts the same question to the bridegroom. The proceedings are recorded by the *kazi* who offers his blessings to the

married couple. The *nikah* or wedding ceremony is followed by an entertainment programme after which the bridegroom returns home with the bride.

Marriage, between cousins, both parallel and cross, is not prohibited among Muslims, that with the first cousin being preferred. However, sister's daughter is under incest taboo. A Muslim cannot marry his foster-mother or foster-sister, unless the foster-brother and sister were nursed by the same woman at intervals widely separated. Polygamy is restricted to four wives, but is not very common these days. A man may not marry his wife's sister during his wife's lifetime unless she has been divorced. Widow remarriage is practised but avoided by many as a mark of social superiority. A widow can marry her deceased husband's brother or relative and a widower his deceased wife's sister or relative. *Talaq* (divorce) as recognised by Muslim law is at the option of the husband, but among higher classes, it is taken in the last resort, when all attempts at rapprochement fail.

Death Ceremonies—To a person about to die, the Sura-e-yasin from the Quran is read out in an undertone. The creed and prayer for forgiveness are recited so that the dying person may also repeat it, and a few drops of honey or sugared water are put into his month. After he breathes his last, the body is laid on a wooden platform, washed and perfumed. A *kafan* (shroud) consisting of three white pieces of cloth to which two more pieces, namely, *simaband* and *odhani* are added in the case of a female, is put on the dead body. Then the bier is lifted on the shoulders of relatives and other Muslims and borne away to the graveyard, where the last prayers are offered. Till the third day, no food is cooked in the house of mourners. But friends or relatives of the deceased send cooked meals or cook them at their expense at the house of mourners.

The only form of mourning laid down by the Muhammadan Law is the strict seclusion of the widow in the case of the death of the head of a family. Unless forced to do so, she never leaves the house for four months and ten days. Besides this strictly Muhammadan observance, some of the customs prevalent among the Hindus are also practised. The widow breaks her bangles and never again wears them. She does not put on a nose-ring. If she is young, she wears dark coloured dress ; if old, a white one.

Social Evils and Crimes

Except the tribals and other backward classes, the people of the district may be said to be free from such social evils as drinking, gambling, prostitution, etc., due to the enforcement of laws prohibiting them. Sporadic cases of drinking, however, do occur, most of which are brought to book. The evil of gambling exists on a very small scale but is mostly confined to urban areas.

The most common and outstanding evil among the tribal people is the habit of drinking. The tribals are generally addicted to drink. Drinking has become a part of their social custom. It is a part of their tradition and sanctioned by their religion. They resort to illicit distillation and drinking, when they cannot openly get it. The peculiar social habits with respect to women existing amongst the tribal people contribute to frequent cases of murders. They seldom resort to serious property offences like dacoities, robberies, etc.

Among the other backward classes, the Chharas who are a few in number, living in village Jivanpur of Modasa taluka, more around the district and commit crimes regarding burglaries and thefts. The Thakardas, powerful and populous social group in the district, commit crimes to eke out a living whenever they do not get any labour or other occupation. By nature and temperament they are more violent than the other communities. Prohibition offences, quarrels, hurts, assaults and rioting are very common and frequent crimes committed by them, murders are not also uncommon.

Traffic in women is not a problem on official records in this district for a number of years, which of course according to district Superintendent of Police does not mean that this evil does not exist.

Property and Inheritance—As regards inheritance and succession, the Hindus are governed by the Hindu Law and the Muslims by the Mohammadan Law. The system of the Hindu Law, which is followed in Gujarat is Mitakshara in general and Vyavhar Mayukha in particular. The main principle of inheritence is that the property of a Hindu is never held in abeyance, but devolves on the sons on the death of the father. Under the coparcenary law in force in Gujarat, the son acquires a right in the ancestral property as soon as he is conceived. But the self-acquired property can be disposed of by a person as he wills, as the son does not get any inherent right in such property. The disabilities in respect of inheritance and succession from which women suffered in the past have been removed by the legislature by enacting special laws like the Hindu Marriage Act, 1936, Hindu Women's right to Property Act, 1937, and the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 which have introduced fundamental changes in the status of women in line with the Directive Principles of the Constitution.

The Hindu Marriage Act enforces monogamy and renders bigamy penal. The Hindu Succession Act while breaking violently with the past lays down uniform system of inheritance and provides for equal treatment of male and female. Another distinguishing feature of these enactments is that any property held by a Hindu female is her absolute property over which she has full powers of disposal. The former restraints and limitations have been removed by making her a full owner and not a limited heir as

in the past. Male and female heirs are treated equal without any distinction. When a Hindu male dies intestate, his property devolves in equal shares between his son, daughter, widow and mother. In actual practice, however, this legal provisions do not appear to be fully implemented. The rights of women have thus been fully recognised in law by ensuring equality of rights in all fields of human activity, social, economic and political, first by granting adult suffrage and later by passing social enactments guaranteeing equality of status before the law.

Joint Family—The Hindu family is from ancient times joint in food, worship and estate. It consists of the head of the family, his wife, their sons married and unmarried, unmarried daughters and grand children living and working together. It was the responsibility of the head of the family to marry the younger members at the proper time, offer oblations to the dead, and propitiate titulary deities. The joint income of the family was spent after all the members according to individual need The widowed, the orphaned, the aged and the disabled were duly looked after. With the passage of time the bonds of joint family system have begun to loosen and the desire for individual liberty and living has necessiated a change in the concept of the family as an economic unit. The need of getting higher and specialised education has separated the younger members from their family for studying at high schools and colleges which are located in towns and cities. On the completion of their studies, many of them like to be settled there, as villages offer no prospects of their employment in profitable pursuits. With the spread of industrialisation and the increasing pressure of population on land, the village people have moved to large industrial and urban centres to secure gainful employment. A large number of joint families have thus begun to disintegrate and the old social order characterised by the joint family system has been undermined under the stress of modern economic conditions and ways of life. The individualistic tendencies are gaining ground day by day, and the former ties which bound the family together are gradually disintegrating. Younger members of the family prefer to live separate rather than continue joint and are particular about their own needs and comforts in preference to those of other members of the family. Despite these changes, the joint family system still survives though in a diluted form without the former adhesion brought about by the spirit of sacrifice and regard for common welfare.

Place of Women in Society—Women occupied a high position in the Hindu society since the ancient times. Lord Manu had declared that gods reside in those households where women are respected. (यत्रनार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवता।). The husband who cast off his innocent wife was punished by the king. The wife, likewise, was supposed to worship her husband as god (पतिर्देवो भव।) and to remain faithful to him. The status of women, however, declined after the Mohammadan invasions of India. when seclusion or *pardah* came into vogue as a measure of safety and

protection. The practice continued thereafter particularly among the Rajput chiefs, and the Zamindars as a mark of social prestige. Their womenfolk remained confined to the four walls of their home. The seclusion was stricter in villages than in towns, and greater among Muslims than among Hindus. But things have changed much in modern times, and the former seclusion of women has well-nigh disappeared.

During the second half of the present century, the desire for a rise in the level of living and soaring prices have created problems unknown in the past. Generally and for the most part, it is men, who are engaged in economic activities though in rural areas among the cultivating classes, women have been giving a helping hand to their male partners in rearing cattle, looking after crops and assisting them in agricultural operations. It was only in towns that women were completely dependent on men and did not take part in any economic activity. Women of the labouring classes have always taken an active part along with males by getting themselves employed in occupations involving manual labour.

Home Life

Housing—In the district, according to the 1961 Census, the total number of houses were 233,147 of which 176,543 (75·72 per cent) were used as dwellings, shop-*cum*-dwellings and workshop-*cum*-dwellings, 30,232 (12·97 per cent) were vacant and the rest 26,372 (11·31 per cent) were used for non-residential purposes. Of the total houses, 90·97 per cent of the houses were in rural areas and 9·03 per cent in urban areas. Taking the district as a whole, on an average, out of every thousand census houses, 170 were vacant as against 830 which were occupied. The district average was exceeded in Idar, Himatnagar and Prantij, where the proportion of vacant houses was 178, 163 and 139, respectively. In all other talukas/mahals, the proportion was less than the district average, the smallest being 53 in the Khedbrahma taluka. There are several reasons for the houses remaining vacant. One significant reason, however, is that because of the forest and backward economy, the taluka people have migrated elsewhere for their living, but they desire to keep their own houses in the native place so that they may stay in their own houses during a brief vacation or the marriage season.

According to the 1961 Census, the number of households was 175,050, as compared to dwelling houses which numbered 176,543. 90·35 per cent of the households lived in owned houses and the rest 9·65 per cent in rented houses. The proportion of owned houses was comparatively less in towns than that in villages. While in urban areas, 57·19 per cent of the householders lived in their own houses, in rural areas this percentage was as high as 92·99.

Housing facilities in the district appear to be on the whole inadequate. 20 per cent sample housing census conducted during 1961 disclosed that as many as 49·94 per cent of the total sample households in the district lived in single room houses, 41·95 per cent in houses with two rooms and less than 10 per cent in houses with more than two rooms. The extent of overcrowding can be measured from the fact that the number of persons, who shared single room houses came to 4·87 on an average.

Most of the houses in villages had walls of mud or burnt bricks plastered with clay and cow-dung emulsion, though grass, leaves, reeds (wattle and daub) or bamboo were in frequent use in the construction of hutments of those who were poor. According to the Census of 1961, as many as 65·91 per cent of houses in rural areas of the district were built of mud and 20·47 per cent of houses were built of burnt bricks. 7·81 per cent had walls of grass, leaves, reeds or bamboos; 2·61 per cent had walls built with stone and 2·13 per cent with unburnt bricks. As regard roofing material, 77·99 per cent of the dwellings had tiled roofs, 17·18 per cent had roofs of corrugated iron, zinc or other metal sheets and 3·98 per cent had roofs of grass, leaves, reeds and bamboos and the rest had stone slabs or iron or cement sheets. The roofs were mostly covered with *deshi* or country tiles, though the preference for *vilayati* or Manglore tiles is nowadays apparent in many villages. The flooring in a majority of village houses was of beaten earth covered with cow-dung emulsion which is believed to possess certain antiseptic properties. Stone and cement tiles are used in houses of the well-to-do.

In urban areas, 63·90 per cent of the houses had walls built with burnt bricks, while 13·61 per cent of the houses had mud walls, 13·46 per cent had stone-walls and 3·89 per cent had walls built with unburnt bricks. The use of tiles as roofing material was found to be comparatively less in urban areas than in villages 52·76 per cent of the dwellings in urban areas had roofs of corrugated iron or cement sheets, 34·04 per cent had tiled roofs, 8·84 per cent had concrete and stone slabs and only 2·97 per cent had grass, leaves, reeds and thatch wood or bamboos as roof materials. In the Idar town, 64·77 per cent of the dwellings were built of burnt bricks, 14·77 per cent of mud and 13·08 per cent of unburnt bricks, while 52·53 per cent of the dwellings had roofs of corrugated iron, zinc or other metal sheets and 42·41 per cent had tiled roofs In the Himatnagar town, 53·10 per cent of the dwellings were built of stone walls: 31·16 per cent of burnt bricks and 13·92 per cent of mud while 43·42 per cent of the dwellings had roofs of corrugated iron, zinc or other metal sheets, 29·35 per cent had tiled roofs and 22·24 per cent had concrete and stone slabs only.

Statement III·12 showing Census houses and the uses to which they are put, Statement III·13—Distribution of sample households living in Census Houses used wholly or partly as dwelling by predominant material of wall

and predominant material of roof (based on 20 per cent sample), Statement III·14—Sample households classified by number of members and by number of rooms occupied (based on 20 per cent sample) extracted from the Housing tables published in Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-B, Housing and Establishments Tables are reproduced at the end of this chapter.

LAYOUT OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Towns—The general layout of large size villages and towns in this district appears to be essentially the same, particularly with regard to the functional distribution of castes and workers. As in the case of villages, towns, some of which have developed from large sized villages or happen to be the headquarters of a district, a taluka/mahal are either on the bank of some river or on some elevated ground or in the middle of the forest or at the foot of the hill. For example, Himatnagar is situated on the elevated ground on the bank of the river Hathmati while Meghraj is situated on the bank of the river Vatrak. Modasa is situated on the bank of river Mazum. It occupies an important strategical position between Gujarat and hilly tracts of Rajasthan. Khedbrahma is situated on the confluence of three rivers, *viz.*, the Harnav, the Kosambi and the Bhimakshi. Idar is situated picturesquely at the foot of rock hill about 500′ high towering over the town. Malpur is situated on the river Vatrak and in the middle of hilly tracts. In towns, the main road passing across the central area branch off into sub-roads leading to the residential areas distributed according to the functional characteristics of castes. Towns and large size villages, which were in the past the principality or seat of some estate holder, had their *darbargadh* either in the centre or one side of the village around which various castes are distributed in the traditional order. The *darbargadh* was the centre of all activities, so all roads led to *darbargadh* and the towns grew radially either in semi-circular way or became the dead end near hill or a river. Recently, the name of the new streets in the towns are attached with the names of social and political leaders. Though traditional pattern in the construction of the buildings is very common, the new and modern trend in building constructions are also round in the district.

Villages—As regards small size villages, the old pattern has not changed to any appreciable extent. Generally, the villages in this district are situated where the natural resources are available for habitation such as water-supply and cultivable land.

In general, every village has localities earmarked for different castes. They follow the functional tradition founded and described in old texts. In a good number of villages, there is a central place known as *chowk* with public place called *chora* or Panchayat Houses which serves as a meeting

place for elderly people or a public forum where the common village problems are discussed. Close to the village gate, and often outside, is what is known as Harijanvas, where the Scheduled Caste people reside in their mud-walled hutments. The tribal people have no village site or group of houses. Each man lives in his field. His hut is usually built of bamboo wattled between supporting columns of wood and strongly plastered with grass and mud. The roof is sometimes filled up but more commonly thatched. Their hut divided into two rooms is surrounded by a cattle-shed, a threshing floor, and a small yard for stacking grain and fodder. The whole hut is enclosed by a strong high creeper-covered fence and is comfortable. The houses of the higher classes are generally in the centre of the village followed by those of artisan and service classes (the Vasvayas). The integrated layout of the houses also varies according to castes. The houses of traders or artisans are usually shop-*cum*-dwellings or workshop-*cum*-dwellings. A Brahmin's house is usually provided with a separate kitchen and water-room with a corner reserved for worshipping the household deity. The houses of the backward classes are mostly single room tenements with a *varandah* in front. With the increasing efforts now made by Government to improve living conditions of the Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes and Castes, their newly constructed houses are much better planned and provided with greater amenities. A majority of the houses in villages in this district are found to be one room tenements with a *padsal* or *osari* in front. Dwellings with more than one room are mostly found to be occupied by higher and well-to-do classes. Most of the houses have an open courtyard in front or at the back enclosed by a wall where the agriculturists keep their cattle and the village artisans ply their household industry. In *kampas*, the houses are built with materials such as cement and bricks but there are also number of houses built with mud. Recently for animals, special provision is made in which systematic *kodhyas*-cattle pans are built. Separate rooms for storing, living or sleeping are unknown in such dwellings though separate kitchens are sometimes provided. Ventilation and sanitation are inadequate. As villagers spend most part of their time in the fields, the need for better ventilation and having sanitation arrangements was not felt. Nor was its provision possible in their small-sized dwellings. To them, the prime use of housing was safety and protection of their scanty belongings and cattle against adverse climatic conditions, wild animals and thieves. But after Independence, the situation and values have changed and, therefore, new structures which have been built do provide adequate ventilation facilities. Air and light are provided to a far greater extent than in the past as evidenced by the keeping of more windows or widening of the ventilators in the walls. In the houses of villages, the number of windows and ventilations is generally less than that in towns With the improvement in economic conditions under the Five Year Plans in the villages mud-walls are being replaced by burnt bricks and country tiles by the Manglore tiles and corrugated iron sheets. The desire on the part of the village people for a better and decent living has

made them to construct modern houses. This is evidenced from the new airy and spacious structures which are coming up in all rural areas. This trend thus indicates significant changes in the level of living brought about by improvement of economic condition in the country-side.

Furniture and Decorations—The types of furniture used and decoration made in the household in a way reveal the status, the economic condition and the cultural background of the householders. It is an essential item for comfortable living. In urban households, various types of furniture are usually found. A rich family dwelling in a specious residence with separate bed rooms and drawing rooms usually has a sofa-set, a few chairs, teapoys, dining and study tables, bed-steads and other items of furniture made of wood, according to its need and capacity. A radio-set, wooden or steel cup-boards and decorative mirrors are other common items of a well-to-do family. An ordinary educated middle class family too have some of the articles and these of course in pieces, though on a moderate scale. Others would rest content with a chair or two of ordinary type and a simple cot. *Hinchko* or swing seems to be a favourite item of furniture with all classes of people. The one used by poorer classes is cheaper made of a simple wooden planks.

People in the villages are not furniture-oriented. An average well-to-do cultivator uses cots, a few chairs, a swing and some modern furniture as well. The tribal people prefer simple furniture such as *khatla*, *pat*, a chair, a table, etc., for their house. The houses are decorated by the tribals by white wash and simple paintings of images of animals, trees, gods and goddesses. Houses of well-to do families in urban areas are decorated with curtains, pictures and delicate pieces of wood work. The ordinary family does not have more than a picture or two or a calendar on the wall for decoration. In orthodox households (both in cities and villages), doorways are decorated with *torans* made of glass beads.

Food, Dress and Ornaments

Food—Generally, the Hindus are vegetarian in this district. The upper class Hindus normally take two meals a day, but those doing physical work including labourers in urban areas, agriculturists, field workers and village artisans in rural areas take three meals a day—the breakfast in the morning and the full meals at noon and at night.

The food taken by the people in rural areas is very simple consisting of two or three items per meal. It is mostly confined to *rotla* or bread of *makai*, *bavto* or *bajri*, *thuli*, *chhas* (butter milk), onion and chillies, which are popular and common items of food. They are taken sometimes with some vegetable or pulse. Rice and *dal* do not find a place in their daily meals, partly because they cannot afford them, and partly because they do

not need or relish them daily. Only on some special occasions do they have rice, curry, vegetable or some sweet. Otherwise it is the butter milk which serves the purpose alongwith *rotla* or *khichadi*, which is also a popular item of food and which is generally taken in the evening by many people both in rural and urban areas. The morning meal of an ordinary urbanite usually consists of *rotli*, rice, *dal* or curry and vegetable or *kathol* or pulse. The well-to-do have such ancillary items as *kachumbar* (salad), *chutneys*, pickles and one or two vegetables. The evening meals are comparatively simple usually consisting of *bhakhari*, milk and a vegetable. The use of *dal* and *bhat* is generally dispensed with in supper though a few among the well-to-do repeat it also at night. During the last sixty years, the use of tea has become universal among all classes of people, and is taken twice or thrice a day, morning, afternoon and evening. A few persons have developed a preference for coffee.

Those who prefer non-vegetarian food are the Bhils, the Rajputs, the Harijans, the Mochis, the Chamars, the Garodas, the Vankars and the Muslims. Generally they prefer meat of goats, sheep and fish as non-vegetarian items.

Dress—The commonest type of dress worn by males in rural areas consists of short and thick *dhoti* or *potdi* (waist cloth) for lower part of the body while a cotton *paheran* (shirt) or *jamo* (a long robe or vest) and *bandi* (jacket) or a coat covering the upper part of the body. Among the tribal people, the dress worn by males in rural areas consists of short *dhoti* or *potdi* (waist cloth) or *langoti* for lower part of the body while a cotton shirt and a *bandi* (jacket) covering the upper part of the body. Moreover, they put on *faliyun*, *phenta* or *paghadi* as the typical head dress. Most of the tribal people and agriculturists still continue to put on their typical headwear a thickly folded *phento*, *paghadi*, *safo* or turban. Before the appearance of Mahatma Gandhi on the political scene, the turban or cap was the only headwear and sometimes the manner of folding the turban indicated the caste of the wearer. After the arrival of Gandhiji, the white cap made of a *khaddar* has become the commonest mode of headwear both in villages and towns. Women in villages put on a coloured *chaniyo* with many flaps or folds (petticoat), a *choli* or *polku* (blouse) alongwith sari or *odhani* (mini sari) a coloured piece of coarse cloth covering the body and the head. Elderly males of higher castes put on *dhoti* (waist cloth), a *kafani* or *paheran* (shirt) or a robe and a red or white coloured *safo* (turban) while the younger folk have taken to trousers or *pyjamas* or pants with shirts or bush-shirts and practically discarded headwear.

As far as the urban areas are concerned, there is no remarkable difference in the dress put on by the people in the district from those in other parts of the State. The traditional type of the dress consisting of *angarkhu* (coat), *jamo* (long robe or vest), *dupatto* or *khes* (shoulder-

cloth) are no longer in use by the urbanites. They now wear *dhotar*, shirt, underwear, coat or waist coat or *paheran*. The women folk generally put on sari alongwith blouse and petticoat. The youngster have commonly adopted shirts or bush-shirts and pants. The head-dress of any kind has gone almost out of fashion among the younger as well as most of the older people who go out bare-headed except the social workers and merchants. To some extent the turban is replaced by white cap among the higher class people. Women wear cotton saries of finer variety, petticoats and blouse in preference to the older type of bodice which has been given up now. Girls do not put on *odhani* as before but have taken to frocks and skirts and Punjabi dress. The *chappals* on account of cheapness have become a favourite foot-wear for men, women and children. The style of dress of young boys and girls is much affected by the sartorial styles of the cinema actors and actresses.

During the last three decades the dress styles have undergone tremendous changes. The factor which is primarily responsible for the change in dress of the people, is the starting of the Swadeshi movement by Mahatma Gandhiji who stressed simplicity in dress and use of *khaddar* by people of all strata of society. In the result, even the more sophisticated classes of society discarded mostly foreign cloth and some made their bonfire and readily resorted to simpler clothing made of *khadi*, which had become an emblem of nationalism. The shortage of cloth during World War II and which continued in the post-war period was one of the reasons for the change.

Ornaments—To decorate and enhance beauty and forms, ornaments are used both by males and females from time immemorial. Used mainly for emphasising one's outward appearance, ornaments have undergone changes from time to time according to the prevailing fashions and also differ from community to community. The change is effected not only in their style or design but also in their size, weight and contents. While the ornaments used in the past were generally simple, solid and heavy, those in vogue at present are much lighter, refined and sophisticated in designs. There is a tendency to use more and more silver light ornaments in preference to heavy gold ornaments due to the high price of gold and as a measure of economy. In the past, ornaments used to serve as both decoration and also as investment and insurance against economic difficulties. Now with the spread of modern banking and other facilities, the trend among upper classes is more towards ornamentation and refinement than on solidity.

In the past, there were certain ornaments which were commonly used by both males and females. Those included *kanthi* or *doro* worn round the neck, a silver *kandora* worn round the waist and a gold or silver *vinti* (ring) worn on one or more of the finger. With the passage of time,

men in general have ceased using these ornaments except the ring, which is now the only common ornament for males and females both in rural and urban areas. The silver *kandoru* has now staged a come-back and ladies have begun to wear it on auspicious occasions.

Female Ornaments--Ornaments in regular use by women in rural areas are either of silver or alloy or of ivory, though gold ornaments are no less popular with those who can afford them. Women in rural areas generally put on heavy silver ornaments. These include *hansdi, doro*, neckless, *madaliyu* worn round the neck, *balaiya, kada*, bangles of silver or of ivory plated with gold or silver worn on the wrists and *chhada, kalla* or *zanzar* or *sankala* on the anklets. Instead of light ear-rings, women in rural areas put on heavy *kadi* or *kap* or *vella* or *vali* on ears. The nose-ring known as *chuni* or *kanto* used by them is heavy and bigger in size, as compared with those used by women in urban areas. Tribal women put on silver *vedh* or *vinti* or *hathful* or *hathro* on the fingers of the hand, *kada* or ivory plated *balaiya* on the hand, gold or silver *hansdi* and *sankali* made of silver worn round the neck, silver *chhada* or *kalla* and brass made *pijaniya* on feet and *machhali* on the foot-fingers, *vedla* or *butiya* or *oganiya* or *laniya* or *laikaniya* or *nakhali* on the ears, a silver *kandoro* on the waist, *vali* in nose, *bantiyu* or pins on the head. Their ornaments are generally made of *kathir*, an alloy of silver and lead.

Fashions in women's ornaments in urban areas have been changing rapidly. They are much influenced by the size and shape of ornaments used by the film actresses. A general tendency appears to avoid heavy ornaments to finer and lighter ones on account of the tender health. Jewellery is worn by those who can afford it. In general, women in the urban areas deck their ears with attractive ear-rings or *butti* made of gold or pearls or precious stones set in gold. Round their neck, they put on a gold necklace or a light golden chain with a *pendant* attached at the middle or a *mangal sutra*, if married. Thick golden necklace known as *hansdi* is put on, on special occasions. *Nath* or *chunk* in the nose which had gone out of fashion during the last decade, has now staged a come-back. As a result, even a small school-going girl is seen wearing a *chuni* now a days. Bangles of gold, glass or plastic are the most common ornaments used by women Gold rings of simple design or set with precious or immitation stones are also popular. Large sized stones are preferred in the rings. There is a growing tendency to imitate the hair-styles or coiffure of film actresses and also because of improved means of communication, influences of regional and international fashions are also visible. Many girls and women use hair-pins, ribbons and rings to fix up their hair in different styles. Silver *zanzar* or *sankla* worn on the anklets are used by many. A wrist watch of big size is a recent addition and is gradually becoming popular among the younger generation.

Male Ornaments—The males in rural areas, particularly agriculturists adorn their ears with *murki* made of gold or silver and a gold or silver ring or two on their fingers. They also use a silver chain of buttons on their upper garments. For those belonging to Bhil and other tribes, ornaments serve a dual purpose of displaying the affluence of the wearer and augmenting the beauty of the person. Thus, the Bhil and other tribes, usually put on silver *kada* on the wrist, silver buttons with stands on shirt and *bandi*, silver or gold *murki* on ears, *bedi* on feet and chain on waist.

Ring is the most common ornament for urban areas. A wrist-watch is a recent addition which is highly popular not only in towns but also in villages. Those who can afford, put on jewelled rings. A few persons put on *kunthi* or gold chain round their necks.

Ornaments for Children—Ornaments for children are light in weight and simple in design. The most common ornament for girls both in rural and urban area is of course the bangles. The practice of wearing simple ear-ring (either of gold or rolled-gold) and silver *zanzar* or *kada* on anklets is common. The girls among the tribal people put on the bangles or *kadas* on the wrists, silver *zanzar* or *chhada* on anklets, ear-ring or *loria* on ears, *kanto* in nose and silver *madaliyu* around the neck. While the boys put on *chudis* on the wrists, a ring on a finger, *doro* (chain) round the neck, and silver *kandoro* on waist. For boys, the popular ornament in village is *madaliyu* or *dokiyu* while in urban areas, they do not generally use any ornament.

The extent of use of gold or silver in the making and wearing of ornaments is mostly governed by the social and economic status of the household and the class of society to which it belongs. Those who cannot afford to have ornaments of gold or jewellery rest content with simpler and cheaper ornaments made of alloy and inferior metals, set with glass pieces and beads. The use of gold ornament has been considerably affected on account of the high price of gold and the enforcement of the Gold Control Order imposing retrictions on making ornaments out of pure gold.

A recent trend in the use of ornaments is the revival of some of the traditional silver ornaments, the artistic excellence of which has attracted notice of all lovers of old handicrafts.

COMMUNAL LIFE

The Garba and Ras—Folk-dance called *garba* or *rasda* is very interesting and important form of cultural activity. Its origin can be traced from the religious celebration of the people. It forms now a part of cultural programme in social association as form of recreation and merriment. *Garba* and *ras* are generally performed both by men and women

especially during the Navratri festival (the first nine days of the Hindu month of Ashvin) and are the commonest form of celebrations in Gujarat. *Garbi*, is generally played by males and is more vigorous and quicker in rhythm as compared with the *garba*, which is played by women.

Bhavai—Bhavai is another traditional mode of entertainment. It is a folk-drama performed at night, and having as its themes, some religious or social anecdotes of moral and entertainment value. Ram-lila, type of folk-drama, depicts the life of Lord Rama, and is played in the villages. It gives entertainment with religious teachings and substitutes the theatre in the past, when there was no organised theatre. The *bhavai* provided good diversion to village-folk. Its usefulness lies in its spontaneity, its folk-lore and entertainment provided to the villagers who easily follow and enjoy and it brings entertainment cheaply to their door-steps. After Independence, efforts are, therefore, being made to revive the folk arts of the *bhavai* by the State aid as a form of popular entertainment. The *bhavai* is one of the important items in annual drama festival organised by the Gujarat State.

> "In the field of folk-music and folk-dance, Adivasis have a special place. They have a special significance for them at the time of fairs, festivals and social occasions like marriage. Folk-dance is a necessary concomitant of the celebration of all such occasions. They are the principal means of recreation, as organised entertainment like dramas and other programmes is rare in such communities. The Adivasis are very fond of their dances which involve simple but vigorous rythmic steps. They call dancing *ghumavu*. Accompanied by musical instruments like *dhol* or drum, *kundi* and *pavo* or flute ; they dance in groups Men forming a large circle going round and round while playing upon the instruments. Women form a smaller inner circle within going round in a similar fashion. Dancing is sometimes accompanied by folk-songs, which though sung loudly are drowned in the fierce beating of the drum. Such dances go on for hours on end, with fresh persons taking the place of tired dancers. They are altogether colourful and spectacular. The Adivasi folk-songs praise departed heroes of the community and denounce evil deeds. They also have religious themes and songs of famous saints like Kabir and Mira are fairly popular."[1]

Among the tribal people like the Bhils, every important phase of their life, be it a marriage or a death, a religious rite or a harvest operation, is blended with song and dance. On account of their intense emotional value, dances enter into all their activities of life. The dances, in their turn, heighten the effects of their emotions. Thus it is that of all things,

1. *Census of India 1961*, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part-VI, No. 14, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, (1969), p. 48.

religion offers numerous occasions for music and dance, which are in part an expression of the excitement inherent in the situations and in part a means of exciting the passions.[1]

Public Games and Recreation Public game is one of the choices of people to pass their leisure hours It is a past time and helps building some of the good traits of character such as spirit of co-operation, discipline and well ballanced physique. It aims at creating community consciousness and enthusiasm amongst people with pleasure Among the tribal people *nritya* is a very popular sport in this district. Besides, they have their special games for recreation among which *jal-to-golo*, *vosfod* and archery are very popular. They are good archers. Rest of the people play a number of indigenous outdoor games such as *hu-tu-tu* (kabaddi), *kho-kho*, *langadi*, *gilli-dando*, *pakad dav*, *tadako-chhayado* and *ambli-pipli*, which develop strength, speed, ability and endurance are still played both in towns and villages with almost the same zeal and interest as in the past At the same time, games like *gilli-dando*, *pakad dav*, *tadako-chhayado*, *ambli-pipli* etc., are practically forgotten in urban areas and their place is being taken up by western games such as cricket, basket-ball, foot-ball, volley-ball, table-tennis badminton etc. Facilities for playing modern games are provided in schools, colleges, sport clubs and gymnasia. When the taluka and district sports are held large number of young men participate very enthusiastically. The indoor game of carrom has gained popularity among the youngsters, while playing cards is a favourite pastime with adults. In rural area generally, Indian games predominate.

The elder section among the higher and middle classes in the towns also prefer to go to clubs and gymkhanas in the evening, whereas the younger people studying in high schools and colleges have their own sports clubs, and association. At sports clubs, the games usually played by the adults are rummy table-tennis, carrom, and badminton. The district has number of sports clubs and recreation centres. There are Lions Clubs at Talod, Himatnagar and Modasa and Junior Chambers at Modasa and Himatnagar. But for a majority of people who have hardly the time and money to spend after such pursuits and also do not have interest and attitude in this regard visits to cinema theatres is the only form of entertainment. Old men and women and some of the adults rest content with visiting some temple or *ashram* either to hear *katha*, *kirtan*, *bhajan* or religious discourse or have a *darshan* of the deity

For the adults, *bhajan mandali* and *ras mandali* provide rest and recreation at night, when the male-folk assemble at the village *chora* and pass their time in singing devotional songs, *bhajan* and *kirtan*. The *garbas*

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1. NAIK T. B., *The Bhils (A Study)*, Delhi, (1956), p. 312.

are organised by the *mahila mandals* for the young ladies; while the little girls play the game of *kuka* or *kodio*. The tribal people play folk-dance when they find themselves free from work. With the passage of time and the impact of the Community Development Programme, new forms of recreations are also coming up, though efforts are made to sustain and revive the older forms, which are still popular with the people at large. There are youth clubs and *mahila mandals* which provide the younger generation with entertainment coupled with constructive activities connected with rural welfare.

CALENDAR

The Hindu Calendar—The celebration of various festivals by different religious communities is closely associated with the different systems of time-reckoning or calendar in vogue in different parts of the country. The Hindus of Sabarkantha generally follow the Vikram Samvat (era) which precedes the Christian era by fifty-six years. The year begins with the month of Kartik and is divided into three seasons, namely, the winter consisting of the months of Kartik, Margashirsh, Paush and Magha, the summer extending over the months of Phalgun, Chaitra, Vaishakha and Jyeshtha and the monsoon over Ashadh, Shravana, Bhadrapad and Ashvin. Each month is divided into two fortnights, the *shukla paksha*, the bright fortnight, when the moon is waxing and the *krishna paksha*, the dark, fortnight when the moon is waning. Dates are reckoned by the day of the fortnight of each month.

The Jain Calendar—Jains generally follow Vir (*nirvan*) Samvatsara which commenced in 527 B. C., from the day, when Mahavir the last of the twenty-four *tirthankars*, attained *nirvan* for the observance of their religious practices and events.

The Muslim Calendar—Muslims in the district generally follow Hijri era; but for accounting and commercial purposes, the Vikram era is followed. The Hijri era is Arabic in origin. It came into being from 15th July, 622 A D., in the 42nd year of the life of Prophet Mohammed to commemorate his migration (*hijrat*) from Mecca to Madina. A year according to this era is divided into the following 12 months. (1) Muharram, (2) Safar, (3) Rabi-ul-Awwal, (4) Rabi-us-Sani, (5) Jamadi-ul-Awwal, (6) Jamadi-us-Sani, (7) Rajab, (8) Shaaban, (9) Ramzan, (10) Shawwal, (11) Zilqaad, (12) Zilhijja.

FESTIVALS

Festivals as they are celebrated in this country symbolise people's cultural, social and religious aspirations which, besides helping them to lead a fuller and better life, also mitigate its monotony by providing physical

(Bk) H-57—29 (Lino)

diversion and mental recreation. Though principally associated with religion, there are a number of occasions wherein the social aspect assumes prominence. In fact, festivals are special days, periods of time and seasons, which are so designed as to ensure individual joy by practising religion coupled with social joy and domestic happiness. They are primarily connected with religious days and agricultural operations.

The Hindu Festivals

The Hindus have a number of festivals all the year round. The principal festivals which are observed by almost all castes and classes in the district include the Divali and the New Year's Day, the Makara Sankranti, the Holi, the Balev, the Navratri and the Dassera, besides the Mahashivratri, the Ram Navami and the Janmashtami which are mainly observed by the followers of the respective sects. There are a number of other festivals such as the Bhai-Bij, the Dev Divali, the Vasant Panchami, the Nag Panchami, the Rushi Panchami, the Shitla Satam, the Ganesh Chaturthi, etc., which are also popular in the district. The Akhatrij or Akshaya Trutiya falling on Vaishakh Sud 3 and the Bhadarvi Amas occurring on the *amavasya* of Shravan have special significance for agriculturists. The Akhatrij is considered auspicious for commencing agricultural operations. The agriculturists worship their bullocks and implements and adorn them with *kumkum* and flowers. On Bhadarvi Amas which is considered to be the holiest among *amavasyas*, the farmers worship their bullocks and feed them.

To devout Hindus, every *ekadashi* is a sacred festival to be celebrated by observing fast and performing *kirtans*. Of all the *ekadashis*, those falling on Kartik Sud 11 (Dev-Uthi or Prabhodhini Ekadashi), Jyeshtha Sud 11 (Nirjala or Bhim Ekadashi), and Ashadh Sud 11 (Dev-Podhi Ekadashi) are specially sacred. There are certain religious festivals, which have special significance for ladies. These include Alunavrata during the month of Chaitra, when women take aluna or saltless diet, the Vat-Savitri Purnima (Jyeshtha Sud 15) when married women worship a banyan tree and keep awake the whole night for nuptial bliss and long life of their husbands, the Gauri Vrata or Jaya-Parvati Vrata observed for five days from Ashadh Sud 11 to 15, both by married women and unmarried girls in dedication to the worship of goddess Gauri or Parvati, and Divaso (falling on the last day of Ashadh), when Hindu women observe fast and keep awake the whole night to please goddess Parvati for marital bliss. The Randhan Chhath (Shravan Vad 6) is an important day for ladies, which is devoted to cooking food for the day following sacred to the Shitla Mata or the goddess Shitla is supposed to wander about among the hearths. Artificial heat by kindling the fire in the oven or hearth is, therefore, eschewed on that day for fear of annoying the goddess. In the morning of Shitla Satam, the lady of the house worships the goddess under a *pipal* tree (*ficus religiosa*), whereafter the food cooked on the previous day is taken by the

members of the household. Some of the festivals, which are important and popular in the district are described below in brief.

The Divali—Of all the numerous festivals celebrated in the district, the most important and most popular among the people is the Divali, appropriately known as the queen of festivals. It is both the climax and commencement of the yearly cycle of festivals, marking the close of the old year and ushering in of the new year. Its celebration is, therefore, spread over six consecutive days starting from Ashvin Vad 12, (Vagh Barash) and extending upto Kartik Sud 2, (Bhai Bij).

On Vagh Barash, also known as Govatsa Dwadashi, a cow with a calf is worshipped in the evening on its return from grazing and fed with a preparation of *udid*. Dhan Terash is dedicated to the worship of Laxmi, goddess of wealth. In rural areas, cows are adorned, their horns and hoofs are painted and their necks decorated with necklace of bronze bells. Kali Chaudash, also known as Narak Chaturdasi is dedicated to goddess Mahakali. It derives its name from the demon king Narakasur, who was killed on this day. The day is also important for the worship of Hanuman, who killed the demons Ahi Ravan and Mahi Ravan on this day and was, therefore, offered oil and red lead by Ram and Lakshman. Divali is celebrated by all and sundry on the *amavasya* of Ashvin. The day is very important to merchants, who close their annual accounts on this day, and open new account books with a traditional ceremony of Lakshmi and Sharda. This ceremony is called *chopda pujan* or *vahi pujan* (Worship of accounts-books). During Divali festival, houses are decorated and made clean and tidy. Lamps (*dipmalas*) are lighted in every house, *rangoli* and *sathiya* designs are drawn near the entrance doors and crackers are fired at night.

The New Year day is the most important day of the year for the Hindus. They get up unusually very early in the morning. After bath and worship of the household deity, people visit temples and then go to pay respects to their elders and exchange greetings of the New Year with relatives and friends. At every house, dishes of sweet preparations are offered to the visitors. Salt or *sabras* which is the essence of all tastes, is the first thing bought in the morning as an auspicious omen representing the zest of life. Divali is also a harvest festival coming at the end of the rainy season. On the New Year Day, the *annakuta*, (offering of all possible varieties of food, sweets, fruits and vegetables prepared from fresh arrivals) is arranged for propitiating the gods.

The day following the New Year Day is known as Bhai Bij and is dedicated to the ideal love between brother and sister. Every Hindu housewife invites her brother to her home on this day and feasts him. The brother in return gives her presents in cash or in the form of some article of her liking.

The Makara Sankranti—The day on which the Sun enters the orbit of Makara (Capricorn) is called *Makara Sankranti*. On this day, cows are worshipped in the morning and fed with boiled *bajri* or *jowar* known as *ghughri* or *tethawa*. Foodgrains are distributed to the poor and needy. The day has a special significance to the agriculturists, as by Makara Sankranti, the *kharif* crops are ready and brought home. These are shared with others, as gift of grain is believed to earn great religious merit on this day. Grass is freely distributed to the village cattle. The young and old indulge in their favourite pastime of kite-flying.

The Holi or Hutashani—The Holi or Hutashani is celebrated as a festival of the spring by the young and the old alike. It is an ancient festival held at a time when the *rabi* crops like wheat, gram, cotton, *til*, etc., are harvested and brought in the market. The Holi fire is lighted at night at every village and in every part of the town or city and worshipped by all. The day after Holi is known as Dhuleti, celebrated by spraying colours and indulging in fun and revelry.

The Balev or the Coconut Day—On Shravan Sud 15, four distinct religious ceremonies, namely, (i) Shravani, (ii) Rakshabandhan, (iii) Balev and (iv) Coconut day are celebrated. The day is known as Shravani, as it falls in the month of Shravan. The Brahmins change their sacred threads. Sisters tie *rakhadi* or *raksha* around the right wrist of their brothers as a charm protecting them from the evils during the ensuing year. The day is also known as Naliyerl Punam or the Coconut day as in the coastal areas, merchants, traders and others offer coconuts to the Sea God, Varun, as it is from this day that the boats are put to sail.

The Janmashtami—The festival to celebrate Shri Krishna's birthday falls on the eighth of the second half of Shravan and is known as Gokul-ashtami or Janmashtami. This festival has special significance for Dwarka, which was the adopted home and capital of Lord Krishna. Devout Vaishnavas observe fast for the whole day. A good number of fairs are held on this day at various places.

The Navratri—The Navratri, or the festival of nine nights, begins from the first day of Ashvin and spreads over nine days. It is sacred to the mother goddess, whose ten manifestations are described in Devi Mahatmya of the Markandeya Purana. The goddess is worshipped daily during these days and earthen pots pierced with numerous holes, containing a light called *garbo*, are kept near the image or trident of the goddess. The lamp is kept burning throughout the night and during the entire Navratri period. Prayers and *garbas* in praise of the goddess are sung by devotees. On the ninth day of the festival, the *havan* ceremony is performed and *naivedya* (food offering) offered to the goddess and its *prasad* distributed.

The Dessera—The Navratri festival is immediately followed by Dassera, so called from *das* (ten) and *ahar* (day). It is also called the Vijayadashmi or the tenth day of victory, as it commemorates the victory of Ram over Ravan. It is also believed that on this day goddess Durga killed the Demon Mahishasur after nine-day battle. Vijayadashmi is thus the day of victory of good over evil and is considered auspicious day to start any new work. Great importance is attached to the worship of *shami* tree (prosopis spicigera) on this day. It is believed that one, who worships *shami* tree on this day, is freed from sins committed by his ten senses. The day is, therefore, called Dash-hara.

Over and above the festivals described above, which are observed by the Hindus, such national festivals as the Independence Day, the Republic Day, and the Gandhi Jayanti Day are observed by people belonging to all castes and communities in the district.

The Jain Festivals

The Jain festivals are generally associated with severe austerities, fasting and worship. The devotee is required to avoid, in addition to roots, which are prohibited on ordinary days, leafy vegetables, dry fruits, tasty food preparations, milk and curd and in some cases even water, when severe austerities and penance are enjoined. The Jainism lays great emphasis on *tap* or penance as a means of earning religious merit. And so it is the religious aspect which is for the most part prominent in Jain festivals.

The principal Jain festivals are the Paryushana, the Oli (Siddhachakra Puja), the Kartik Purnima and the Mahavir Jayanti.

The Kartik Purnima (Kartik Sud 15) marks the close of the austerities of *chaturmas* or the four monsoon months starting from Ashadh Sud 15. Devout Jains who have undertaken the austerities of *chaturmas* end them on this day. The day is also observed as the birthday of Shri Hemchandra-charya, the well-known learned Jain *savant* who was born this day of Vikram Samvat 1145.

The Paryushana or Pajusan, the most sacred of the Jain festivals is the occasion of continuous religious activities and strict austerities. It is observed by all, high and low. The Shwetambars observed it from Shravan Vad 12 to Bhadrapad Sud 4 and the Digambars from Bhadrapad Sud 5 to Sud 14. Complete fasts are enjoined to be undertaken during the Paryushana. Those, who cannot fast for all the days, should fast atleast for some days during this *parva*. Everybody fasts on the last day popularly known as the Samvatsari, considered to be the most sacred of all the days. The Samvat-sari denotes the annual *pratikraman* or expiation of sins. On this day, as an atonement of his sins, every Jain begs forgiveness of others for any

offence that he might have committed during the year gone by. This is known as *khamavavun* or pardon.

The Oli-Siddhachakra Puja (Chaitra and Ashvin Sud 7 to 15)—The Shwetambars consider this festival next in importance only to the Paryushana and celebrate it for nine days from Sud 7 to *purnima* twice a year in Chaitra and Ashvin. During these days *navpadas*, nine steps represented on the Siddhachakra or Saint's wheel are worshipped in every Shwetambar temple. Partial fast is observed on all these days.

The Mahavir Jayanti (Chaitra Sud 13 , The Mahavir Jayanti is the birth anniversary of Mahavir Swami, the 24th and the last Jain *tirthankar*, born in 599 B. C. Besides religious ceremonies at the temple, processions are taken out with the idol of Mahavir. The Digambar Jains also celebrate the Virashasan Jayanti on Shravan Vad 1, the day on which Mahavir after achieving omniscience, delivered his first spiritual sermon.

The Jains also observe the Nirvan Kalyanak or the holy anniversary of the Nirvan of Mahavir on the Divali day (Ashvin Vad 30).

The Muslim Festivals

The two sects of the Muslims, Sunnis and Shiahs, have different holidays except Muharram, Ramzan and Bakri-Id festivals, which are common to both. In the beginning of the year comes the month of Muharram, which is held by Shiahs in special venerations as being the month in which Imam Hussain, the son of Ali, was killed. His death is the subject of public mourning during the first ten days when fasting and self-denial are also enjoined. An interesting religious activity in the Muharram festival is the preparing of *taziahs* or *tabuts*, bamboo and tinsel models of the shrine of the Imam at Karbala. These shrines are taken round in procession on the tenth day and sub-merged into water of a river or lake. Sweet bread and sugared water are distributed among friends in the evening. Shiahs, unlike Sunnis, keep Muharram for forty days. Of these, the first, ten are a time of special mourning.

The thirteenth of Safar is known as Tera Tezi or Talan Tezi and kept by Sunnis in memory of the Prophet's recovery from a severe sickness. Another important day is the twelfth of the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the Wafat or day of the Prophet's death. This day is called Id-e-Milad, as it is also the day of the birth of the Prophet. Id meaning happiness and Milad meaning birth. It is celebrated more as the birth anniversary than as the day of death of the Prophet. The *gyarvi* festival falls on the eleventh day of Rabi-us-Sani on which Sunnis celebrate the birth of Saiyad Abdul Kadir Jilani by illuminating their houses and eating *malidah* (powdered sugar bread) at night. On the first eleven nights of Rabi-ul-

Awwal in honour of Prophet's birth, *waazes* (sermons) are delivered, a large number of people attend them and on the eleventh day, charitable people give a morsel of sacred food called *taburruk* to every one present. The Shab-e-Barat which falls on the night of the fourteenth day of Shaaban is among Sunnis characterised by the preparations of special dishes, which are distributed to the poor after the recitation of the *fatiha* (opening chapter of the Quran) and by feasting of friends and relations. Greater than this festival is the Id-ul-Fitr commonly known as Ramzan Id which falls on the first day of Shawwal. Throughout the preceding month of Ramzan, a general fast is observed every day from sunrise to sunset, prayers known as *taraveeh* are offered in the mosques and Quran recited during the month. Ramzan Id marks the close of the fast and in consequence, Muslims Sunnis and Shiahs of all ages and both sexes bathe, put on new clothes, apply perfumes, repair to the mosque, and thereafter meet friends and relations and bid them good luck and god-speed. The Id-e-Baqr falls on the tenth day of Zilhijja and is characterised, like Ramzan Id, by prayers in mosques. The eighteenth of Zilhijja is a great Shiah holiday known as Id-e-Ghadir or the lake holiday. On this day, the Prophet seated by a lake proclaimed in a joyous moment that Ali was his own flesh and blood. Shiahs also observe the twenty-eighth of Zilhijja as a festival of three days in memory of Baba Shuja-ud-din a fire-worshipping convert to Islam, who on this day murdered the Khalifah Umar.

Pilgrim Places

Khedbrahma is one of the important places of pilgrimage both for people of the district and the State. It derives sanctity from the shrine of Brahma, temple of Amba Mataji. There is also the shrine of Bhrigu Rishi in Bhrigu Ashram at a little distance. Fairs are held every year in the month of Kartik, Chaitra and Bhadrapad (November, April and September).

Shamlaji in the Bhiloda taluka is a known pilgrim centre where the ancient temple of Shamlaji, *i. e.*, Lord Krishna is said to have been built in the 10th or 11th century and repaired over 400 years ago. It is built of white sand-stone and bricks and enclosed by a wall and imposing gate-way with gigantic elephants in cement adorning either side of the entrance. The temple is a good specimen of sculpture current in those days. Two large fairs are held every year on (i) Kartik Sud 15 (November) and (ii) Shravan Sud 8 (August). The place is visited by all communities including Muslims and Christians.

Torda is another place of pilgrimage in the district. Followers of the Swaminarayan religion visit this place as one of the centre of their worships. It is the birth-place of Gopalanand Swami, a leading saint of the religion. The river Budheli flows past and a fair is held on Vaishakha Sud 3 (May).

FAIRS

Fairs are generally associated with deities, religious observances and agricultural seasons. The following statement gives the names of deities to which the fairs are sacred, month in which they are held and the number of persons participating.

STATEMENT III·11

Fairs According to Deity, Months and Size of Congregation

(In Descending Order of Congregation)

Deity	Month	Total: No. of fairs	Total: Congregation	Below 5,000: No. of fairs	Below 5,000: Congregation	5,000 to 9,999: No of fairs	5,000 to 9,999: Congregation	10,000 to 24,999: No. of fairs	10,000 to 24,999: Congregation	25,000 to 49,999: No. of fairs	25,000 to 49,999: Congregation	50,000 and above: No. of fairs	50,000 and above: Congregation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Total ..		**112**	**480,724**	**92**	**152,724**	**15**	**97,000**	**2**	**26,000**	**2**	**55,000**	**1**	**150,000**
KRISHNA ..	*Total* ..	*36*	*221,237*	*33*	*58,737*	*2*	*12,500*	..	..	..	..	*1*	*150,000*
	August ..	35	71,237	33	58,737	2	12,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
	November ..	1	150,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	150,000
SHIVA ..	*Total* ..	*35*	*149,462*	*27*	*47,462*	*5*	*36,000*	*1*	*11,000*	*2*	*55,000*	..	..
	February ..	24	57,462	21	37,962	3	19,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
	March ..	4	6,000	4	6,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April ..	1	25,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	25,000	..	..
	May ..	1	1,750	1	1,750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August ..	2	18,500	..	..	1	7,500	1	11,000	..	..	..	..
	September ..	3	40,750	1	1,150	1	9,000	..	..	1	30,000	..	..
MATAJI ..	*Total* ..	*14*	*43,750*	*10*	*15,750*	*4*	*28,000*	..	..	..	..	..	..
	February ..	1	250	1	250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April ..	3	13,000	2	4,000	1	9,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September ..	1	7,500	..	..	1	7,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
	October ..	8	17,500	7	11,500	1	6,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	November ..	1	5,500	..	..	1	5,500	..	..	..	..	..	..

STATEMENT III·11—*contd.*

Deity	Month	Total		Below 5,000		5,000 to 9,999		10,000 to 24,999		25,000 to 49,999		50,000 and above	
		No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
LOKMELA ..	*Total* ..	*8*	*27,850*	*6*	*7,350*	*1*	*5,500*	*1*	*15,000*	..	..	..	..
	February ..	1	2,250	1	2,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	March ..	2	8,600	1	1,100	1	5,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April ..	1	15,000	..	..	..	..	1	15,000	..	..	..	..
	August ..	1	2,000	1	2,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September	2	1,600	2	1,600	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	December ..	1	400	1	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
LOCAL HEROES ..	September ..	8	15,625	7	10,625	1	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
HOLI ..	*Total* ..	*2*	*6,000*	*2*	*6,000*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	March ..	1	2,000	1	2,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April ..	1	4,000	1	4,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
HANUMAN ..	*Total* ..	*2*	*5,500*	*1*	*500*	*1*	*5,000*		..	..	..	..	..
	March ..	1	5,000	..	..	1	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April ..	1	500	1	500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
LOCAL SAINTS ..	April ..	1	5,000	..	..	1	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
SWAMINARAYAN ..	May ..	1	2,500	1	2,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
RAMA ..	*Total* .	*2*	*1,700*	*2*	*1,700*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August ..	1	1,000	1	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September ..	1	700	1	700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BALIA DEV ..	February ..	1	1,000	1	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
LOCAL DEITIES ..	May ..	1	700	1	700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
RAMDEV PIR ..	September ..	1	400	1	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Source : Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, (Part-II, Tables), pp. 246-247.

As the statement indicates, the total number of fairs in the district is 112. The congregation at these fairs varies according to the season and exigencies of agricultural operations. In the month Shravan or July-August 39 fairs are held. Among the total fairs 36 are held in reverence to Lord Krishna. Next in order, 35 fairs are dedicated to Lord Shiva. Other fairs are dedicated to Mataji, Lokmela, local heroes, Holi, Hanuman, local saints, Shri Swaminarayan, Shri Rama, Baliya Dev, local deities Ramdev Pir, etc.

Among these fairs four deserve specific mention because of their historical, social and numerical importance. In these fairs apart from the usual religious practices of having a dip in the holy waters of the river and reverence to the deity, cultural activities are also organised by the Taluka Panchayat. Their details are as follow.

(1) *The Shamlaji Fair* (*Kartik Purnima fair*) *at Shamlaji*[1]—Shamlaji is situated on the bank of river Meshwo on the border between Gujarat and Rajasthan in the Bhiloda taluka. It is one of the principal Vaishnavite shrines and places of pilgrimage of north Gujarat and surrounding areas of Rajasthan. Shamlaji (the Dark God), a form of Vishnu, is also called Gadadhar (the holder of the mace), and the place is known as Gadadhar Kshetra. Sakshi Gopal is another name of Shamlaji. The Kartik Purnima fair at Shamlaji lasts for about three weeks, commencing from Dev-uthi Agiarash or Kartik Sud 11 till the Margashirsh Sud 2. It has been one of the biggest fairs of Gujarat, and is visited by about 150,000 persons during the entire period of the fair from all parts of the State particularly more from Sabarkantha, Kaira and Ahmedabad districts and from the neighbouring districts of Rajasthan State like Dungarpur, Banswara, Udaipur, etc. Adivasis attend the fair in large numbers. They are mostly Bhils, who have great faith in Shamlaji, whom they call 'Kalio Bavji' or the 'Dark Divinity'. Besides Adivasis, Hindus in general also visit the fair in large numbers. The Muslims and the Christians also attend the fair for fun and marketing.

Since *purnima* is the most important day of the fair, the congregation is the largest on Sud 14, *purnima* and Vad 1 and numbers 15,000 persons on each of these three days. On other days, it dwindles down to 5,000.

Specially indicated on the occasion is a bath in the river Meshwo, especially in the pool Nagdharo near Vishram Ghat and the *darshan* of Shamlaji, the presiding deity of the area.

The main commodities sold in the fair are foodgrains, *karlana* (spices), vegetables, silver and other ornaments and trinkets, bangles, utensils, cloth

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part-VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals* pp. 251-255.

and ready-made garments, household articles, sweetmeats and eatables, cutlery, pottery, wooden toys, etc. Formerly, a big cattle bazaar was held at the fair, which was discontinued after 1951, as the business had declined considerably. Recreational facilities at the fair include merry-go-rounds, giant wheels, circus, cinema shows, dramas, jugglery and magic shows, puppet shows, 'Yamapuri', etc. The blaring loudspeakers used for advertisement add to the din and bustle of the crowds. Agricultural and cattle-shows are organised by the Block Panchayat Office, Bhiloda. Charts, insecticides, pesticides, etc., are exhibited by the Agriculture Department to accquaint the visitors with the latest improved farming practices. Film shows about social welfare, handicrafts and agricultural activities are also organised by these agencies. Sanitary and vaccination arrangements are made by the Public Health Department. A small dispensary and first-aid centre is also opened by the district panchayat. No pilgrim tax is levied. The fair is organised by the Sabarkantha District Panchayat.

Though an important fair since ancient times it was discontinued as a consequence of robbery, disorder and anarchical condition in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It was restored in 1838 by Sir James Outram, the Political Agent who by ensuring the safety of merchants in the fair, revived its pristine glory.[1]

Apart from this traditional fair, two other fairs are also organised at Shamlaji by the local Sarvodaya Centre. They represent the new trends in social out-look in respect of tribal people. The Sarvodaya Mela is held on the 12th February, the *shraddha* (*asthivisarjan*) day of Mahatma Gandhiji. It is attended by about 2,000 persons from surrounding villages of the district. At the time of Holi, another fair called Gandhi Gher Mela is held on Phalgun Vad 5 near the Sarvodaya Ashram, and is attended by about 5,000 to 6,000 persons chiefly Adivasis, Thakardas, Harijans, etc. The fair has significantly contributed to the cause of prohibition in the area. The arrangements for the fair are looked after by a fair committee constituted of representatives of the Sarvodaya centre, the gram panchayat and village leaders.

(2) *Chaitri Punam Fair at Khedbrahma*[2]—The Khedbrahma is also an important place for devotees of Amba Mata, Goddess Bhavani. Her shrine at this place is held next in importance only to Ambaji (or Mota Ambaji) a well-known place of pilgrimage of Hindus in the Banaskantha district. The place is, therefore, called Nana Ambaji. In fact, there is also a belief that Khedbrahma was the orignal place of Ambaji. The biggest

1. *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. I, (1872), p. 192.

2. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, pp. 256-257.

fair of Chaitri Punam is held here on Chaitra Sud 15 (April) in honour of Ambaji Mata. The fair is congregated by 8,000 to 10,000 persons of whom about 7,000 to 8,000 come from outside. There are many shops opened at the fair for the sale of sweetmeats, household articles, tea, etc.

At this place another fair is held on Bhadrapad Sud 15 (September), at the same temple when about 7,000 to 8,000 persons congregate and about 200 shops are set up. The visitors are mainly Hindus.

A third fair called 'the Kartiki Punam fair' is organised on Kartik Sud 15 (October), wherein about 5,000 to 6,000 persons participate.

Significant feature of this fair is the bath at the confluence of the three rivers (Harnav, Kosambi and Bhimakshi) to get rid of sins of pilgrims, where after they have the *darshan* of Kshetramba and visit the holy site of Bhrigu.

Since the fairs are held mainly in honour of Ambaji, the trustees of that shrine organise all these fairs.

(3) *Navasti or Chitra-Vichitra Fair at Gunbhakhari*[1]—This Adivasi fair is held in honour of the Chitra-Vichitra Mahadev fourteen days after Holi in March-April at the village Gunbhakhari of the Khedbrahma taluka. The temple is situated on the picturesque site on the river Sabarmati near the Triveni Sangam, *i. e.*, the triple confluence of the rivers Sabarmati, Akul and Vyakul. Mahadev or Lord Shiva is held in high esteem by the Adivasis. The shrine is associated with Chitravirya and Vichitravirya, the sons of Shantanu and Satyavati or Matsyagandha of the Mahabharata. It is believed that Chitravirya and Vichitravirya stayed here and were cured of their disease at the temple near the Triveni Sangam where this fair is held.

The fair is one of the important fairs of Adivasis in the border region, and attracts about 25,000 persons, most of whom are Bhils. They come not only from Poshina-Patta and other areas of Sabarkantha district itself, but also from outside areas like Danta in Banaskantha district which is about 64 kms. away, and even from distant places like Sarupganj, Sihori, Ghoghinda, etc., situated in Rajasthan.

There are many shops opened at the fair for the sale of eatables, drinks and ornaments. There are also giant wheels and merry-go-rounds for recreation purposes. The place is connected by bus services. The site of the fair is now in the jurisdiction of the Sembalia Panchayat. The *Pujari* of the temple is, however, a Brahmin from Delwada across the river. While police

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1. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, pp. 258-260.

bandobast is made by the Government of Gujarat, the police of Rajasthan also looks after law and order on its own side as numerous pilgrims come from that State also.

The fair is not only a means of entertainment for the Adivasis who attend it, but also a major annual event of social importance and significance. It is here that most of the people meet their relatives after a year and sometimes after a longer time. News of the intervening period is exchanged, and if a near relative is dead, this is the time to offer condolences. In a few cases, a couple of women may mourn a near relative weeping profusely in a sympathetic embrace. The interesting aspect of the fair is a romantic practice of marriage settlement among Adivasi's during the fair. It is here that many young Adivasi boys and girls select their life partners by elopement from the fair by previous arrangement, as they get abundant opportunities to meet each other in this fair. Among the Bhils, this is an accepted mode of match-making outside the orthodox manner of selection by the parents. The boy and the girl make their decision and run away directly from the fair. If they get caught shortly afterwards, there is a risk of bloody quarrels and loss of life. They, however, lie low for about a year and their marriage is recognised afterwards by the community. Sometimes, the two parties may compromise and recognise the marriage. Such recognition is given on payment of the usual *dapun* and fine that may be decided upon by the caste *panch*. Since people have to walk long distances to come to the fair, this is essentially a fair of young people. The sense of equality between men and women entertained by this community is well illustrated on such occasions. A couple will always remain together wherever they go, and in the milling crowd of the fair, the wife will be seen following the husband, holding his hand or the loose end of his turban, and will never be separated from him.

(4) *Mudhaneshwer Mahadev Fair at Jadar*[1]—The fair is held at the village Jadar of Idar taluka in the district on the Second Monday of Bhadrapad (September) and continued for three days. The place is connected by the railway and bus services. The fair is said to have been held for the past more than 600 years. It was held near the temple of Mudhaneshwer Mahadev, but on account of insufficient space there, it is now held on the open ground on the bank of the river Debhol, about 1 km. away from the temple on the other side of the river.

It is believed that the temple was built in memory of five Kshatriya brothers, who were killed in an attempt to save cows from miscreants, cow-lifters. Among these five Chauhan Rajput brothers, Mudhano was one of them. After whom the Mahadev was named Mudhaneshwer. There

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, pp. 961-968.

is also a legend that one of them Mudhano rescued a snake from a tree caught in fire. The snake in turn gave a blessing that the brothers would be worshipped and snakebites would be cured at their temple.

People suffering from snakebites are cured at the temple of Mudhaneshwer. As soon as a snake bites a person, a thread with five knots is tied on the bitten limb after keeping a *badha* or vow of Mudhaneshwer Mahadev. The poison thereupon ceases to spread through the body. The patient is then taken to the temple and as soon as the thread is untied and removed, the poison spreads in the body. The *ghogh* or *bhuva* then sucks out the poison and waves a twig of a *nim* tree before the patient. No *mantras* are recited nor is any herb administered except when bitten by a snake known as Khadchital, in which case herbs are given to the victim and water sprinkled on Mahadev is applied. The victim is kept only for an hour and a half at the temple.

The fair is held on the second Monday of Bhadrapad, so that persons attending the Jhala fair near Shambor and Adpodra on the same day may be able to attend it. The fair is held for three days, if the 14th or 15th of Bhadrapad Sud is near at hand, the fair does not last even for three days as the persons go from Jadar to attend the fair at Khedbrahma on *purnima*. However, if the fair at Jadar (*i. e.*, Second Monday of Bhadrapad) falls on Bhadrapad Sud 10, 11 or 12, it lasts for three full days. About 30,000 persons of all castes and communities (including about 2,000 non-Hindus) from Idar taluka and the neighbouring talukas of Khedbrahma, Himatnagar, etc., attend the fair on the first day. People also come from other parts of the district and from outside the district. On subsequent days, the number decreases.

There are many shops of cutlery, sweets and other eatables, wooden toys, tea and refreshments, handicrafts product like agricultural implements, pottery and iron articles of household use, and stalls of photographers, magic and circus performances are located in separate blocks. There is a separate site for merry-go-rounds. The high school students run a canteen at the entrance to the fair and hold a display of physical feats and cultural programmes. An agricultural show is put up by the Block Development authorities. The village panchayat arranges programmes of *shramdan* and *safai*. Illumined by tube lights and made noisy by loud-speakers, the fair presents a lively look at night. The fair is organised by the Gram Panchayat, Jadar.

The most important aspect of the fair consists in breaking and offering of coconuts to Mudhaneshwer Mahadev. People from villages situated within a radius of about 24 kms. arrive at the temple in the morning. The people have a firm belief that, on account of this offering, they will be protected from poisonous snakes.

THE NEW TRENDS

The winds of change are blowing all round under the impact of the Five Year Plans. The pattern in dress, ornaments, social customs, food and other habits of the people, their mode of living, the religious beliefs and practices have undergone almost complete transformation. The impact of the cinema is far-reaching but not necessarily healthy. With the diversification of occupations and spread of education, the social barriers are gradually breaking down the rigidity and the rigours of the caste system have disappeared to a large extent. As a result, cases of inter-caste and inter-provincial marriages have increased and the entire society has become sociable except in a few cases where untouchability persists particularly in the rural areas. The social legislation for abolition of untouchability has not made any serious impact on the rural population. The extension of general and technical education has opened up new vistas of employment on account of the schemes undertaken under the Five Year Plans. Women have shed their shyness and have secured a place alongwith males in the Government offices, public undertakings, private business organisations, educational and social institutions. They have shown their competence in various fields and as such, they are not confined to the hearth and home as before. By and large, the people have become politically conscious and take intense interest in the elections whether they are of Panchayats, State Legislature or of Parliament. With the increase in the agricultural prices, the purchasing power of agriculturists has increased tremendously with the result that they spend lavishly on social customs. With the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, the farmers have acquired political power to reckon with as vote-banks both at the State level and the district level.

After Independence, the entire landscape of agricultural economy has changed under the impact of the Five Year Plans. Government has provided financial and technical assistance in the form of agricultural tools and techniques. Land reform measures cover abolition of intermediaries such as Talukadars, Jagirdars, Inamdars, Watandars and Ankadedars, etc. The tenancy reforms provide for security of tenure, regulation of rent and transfer of ownership to tenants The consolidation of holdings and imposition of ceiling on land-holdings have cut down tall *poppies* in the district and have made most of the tenants land owners. The alienations of the lands admeasuring 363,956 hectares have been abolished under the Tenure Abolition Acts in this district and 76,257 cultivators who were actually tilling the lands have been given occupancy rights. They have, therefore, become the full owners of the lands which they were cultivating. The intermediaries between the State and the actual cultivators have now been mostly removed. The concept of private ownership has given the cultivators incentive for investment of capital and labour in the lands under cultivation. After implementation of the land reforms, a few

persons remain as landless agricultural labourers. After acquisition of occupancy rights, cultivators are now able to procure loans from banks, Government, etc., for improvement of their lands and crops. The cultivators are in a position to make their lands more fertile to grow cash crops like cotton, groundnut, etc. Most of them are also taking two or three crops during a year.

Under the Five Year Plans, education has spread even to the farthest tribal areas, roads have been constructed, opening hilly and forest areas ; and small-scale industries are coming up, providing greater employment to the people. The improved condition is also resulted in the elevation of cultivators' social status and educational standard. The increase of means of transport and communications has facilitated migration from villages to towns and cities. The entire economy of the district has been thus undergoing quick transformation as result of concentrated efforts the State and the people made in various fields of activities.

To sum up, the society which was static and somnolent under the Princely States before merger is in the process of continuous change by the impact of the freedom from the feudal rule and the development programmes under the Five Year Plans. The transition from tradition to modernity is not complete. With the introduction of new tools and techniques of agricultural production and much feather-bedding of agriculture and small-scale industries by Government, the employment opportunities have increased and the people have acquired more purchasing power. This change is reflected in their level of living. They now use all modern gymmics such as motor-cycles, radios, motor-cars, tractors, terelyne clothes, better food, well-built and well furnished houses. They indulge in extravagant expenditure on social customs.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT III·12

Census Houses and the uses to Which they are put

Sl. No.	District/Taluka/Mahal/City/Town with population of 50,000 or more	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total No of Census Houses	Census houses vacant at the time of house-listing	Occupied Census Houses used as				
					Dwelling	Shop-*cum*-dwelling	Workshop-*cum*-dwelling	Non-dwelling	Others
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Sabarkantha District ..	T	233,147	30,232	174,268	1,925	350	10,823	15,549
		R	212,086	27,052	161,755	1,658	324	7,857	13,440
		U	21,061	3,180	12,513	267	26	2,966	2,109
1.	Idar	T	45,048	8,002	32,243	296	100	1,992	2,415
		R	41,492	7,473	29,995	213	96	1,469	2,246
		U	3,556	529	2,248	83	4	523	169
2.	Khedbrahma	R	17,358	912	13,772	205	79	606	1,784
3.	Vijaynagar	R	6,378	734	5,161	78	..	232	173
4.	Bhiloda	R	20,769	1,736	16,880	154	44	549	1,406
5.	Himatnagar	T	29,963	4,894	21,516	277	8	1,642	1,626
		R	24,850	4,165	18,425	175	1	994	1,090
		U	5,113	729	3,091	102	7	648	536
6.	Prantij	T	39,653	5,513	27,465	250	46	2,277	4,102
		R	32,246	4,385	23,429	201	34	1,081	3,116
		U	7,407	1,128	4,036	49	12	1,196	986
7.	Modasa	T	30,197	3,602	22,488	359	11	1,663	2,074
		R	25,212	2,808	19,350	326	8	1,064	1,656
		U	4,985	794	3,138	33	3	599	418
8.	Meghraj	R	10,213	918	8,713	92	25	249	216
9.	Malpur	R	8,661	994	6,711	48	10	390	508
10.	Bayad	R	24,907	2,927	19,319	166	27	1,223	1,245

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishment Tables*, pp 16-17.

STATEMENT

Distribution of Sample Households Living in Census Houses of Wall and Predominant

(Based on 20

District/Taluka/ Mahal/City/ Town with population of 50,000 or more	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total No. of house-holds	Predominant					
			Grass, leaves, reeds or bamboo	Timber	Mud	Unburnt bricks	Burnt bricks	C. I. sheets or other metal sheets
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sabarkantha District ..	**T**	**35,535**	**2,615**	**170**	**22,049**	**804**	**8,412**	[illegible]
	R	**32,912**	**2,571**	**149**	**21,692**	**702**	**6,736**	[illegible]
	U	**2,623**	**44**	**21**	**357**	**102**	**1,676**	**19**
1. Idar .	T	6,593	251	14	3,354	81	2,696	9
	R	6,119	250	4	3,284	19	2,389	4
	U	474	1	10	70	62	307	5
2. Khedbrahma*	R	2,824	215	1	1,760	504	167	1
3. Vijaynagar* .	R	1,051	130	..	843	16	26	—
4. Bhiloda* ..	R	3,432	555	21	1,885	46	675	[illegible]
5. Himatnagar .	T	4,304	125	76	2,854	96	616	[illegible]
	R	3,733	118	75	2,762	95	410	5
	U	661	7	1	92	1	206	[illegible]
6. Prantij .	T	5,572	133	7	3,026	43	1,432	6
	R	4,748	108	3	3,759	4	860	.
	U	824	25	4	167	39	572	6
7. Modasa	T	4,612	360	34	2,398	5	1,707	13
	R	3,948	349	28	2,370	5	1,116	8
	U	664	11	6	28	.	591	5
8. Meghraj* ..	R	1,767	347	..	1,247	1	148	1
9. Malpur* ..	R	1,377	176	9	997	4	170	4
10. Bayad* ..	R	3,913	323	6	2,786	6	775	[illegible]

Source :
Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishment Tables*, pp. 486-487.

* Entirely rural

III·13

used wholly or Partly as Dwelling by Perdominant Material Material of Roof

per cent Sample)

Material of Wall			Predominant Material of Roof						
Stone	Cement concrete	All other material	Grass, leaves, reeds, thatch, wood or bamboo	Tiles, slate shingle	Corrugated iron, zinc or other metal sheets	Asbestos cement sheets	Brick and lime	Concrete and stone	All other material
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1,212	**85**	**136**	**1,388**	**26,560**	**7,023**	**71**	**18**	**424**	**51**
859	**69**	**101**	**1,310**	**25,667**	**5,653**	**57**	**17**	**192**	**16**
353	**16**	**35**	**78**	**893**	**1,370**	**14**	**1**	**232**	**35**
137	14	37	62	5,096	1,351	30	4	48	3
137	1	31	60	4.894	1,102	24	4	33	2
..	13	6	2	201	249	6		15	1
187	10	9	74	2,501	212	3	.	34	..
36	..	..	118	913	17	.	.	2	1
154	44	50	235	3,027	140	17	..	9	4
608	8	3	60	3,276	852	10	..	185	11
257	8	3	38	3,082	565	7	..	38	3
351	..	..	22	191	287	3	.	147	8
12	1	12	61	3,378	2,056	8	..	62	7
11	1	2	33	3,160	1,522	3	.	28	2
1	..	10	28	218	534	5	.	34	5
69	5	21	113	3,304	1,111	1	1	60	22
68	2	2	87	3,024	811	1	..	24	1
1	3	19	26	280	300	..	1	36	21
23	..	..	587	1,080	86	1	9	4	..
14	..	3	25	1,255	90	1	2	3	1
2	3	1	53	2,731	1,108	..	2	17	2

STATEMENT

Sample Households Classified by Number of Members

(Based on 20

Sl. No.	District / Taluka / Mahal / City / Town with population of 50,000 or more	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total No. of house-holds	Total number of members		Total No. of rooms
				Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sabarkantha District ..	T	**35,535**	**92,192**	**87,940**	**57,434**
		R	**32,912**	**85,901**	**82,328**	**51,834**
		U	**2,623**	**6,291**	**5,612**	**5,600**
1.	Idar	T	6,593	15,334	15,019	11,153
		R	6.119	14,283	14,012	10,325
		U	474	1,051	998	828
2.	Khedbrahma* ..	R	2.824	7,320	6,965	3,656
3.	Vijaynagar* .	R	1,051	2,961	3.007	1,458
4.	Bhiloda*	R	3,432	8,692	8,403	4,378
5.	Himatnagar ..	T	4,394	11,037	10,470	7,785
		R	3.733	9.428	9.164	8.287
		U	661	1.609	1,306	1,408
6.	*Prantij*	T	5,572	14,747	14,211	10,031
		R	4,718	12,758	12,420	8,178
		U	824	1.989	1,791	1,853
7.	Modasa . ..	T	4,612	11,987	11.074	7,766
		R	3.948	10.345	9,557	6,345
		U	664	1,642	1,517	1,421
8.	Meghraj*	R	1.767	5,086	4,824	2,577
9.	Malpur*	R	1,377	4,076	3,772	1,979
10.	Bayad*	R	3,913	10,952	10,204	6,651

III-14

and by Number of Rooms Occupied

per cent Sample)

Households with no regular room			Households with one room		
No. of households	Number of members		No. of households	Number of members	
	Males	Females		Males	Females
8	9	10	11	12	13
65	121	133	17,746	44,608	41,839
58	110	121	16,768	42,552	40,131
7	11	12	978	2,056	1,708
35	62	72	2,565	6,008	5,434
32	58	64	2,393	5,671	5,126
3	4	8	172	337	308
..	..	..	2,096	5,290	5,087
1	2	4	749	1,964	2,058
7	13	15	2,511	6,597	6,248
9	16	22	1,674	3,791	3,502
6	10	19	1 406	3,245	3.137
3	6	3	268	546	365
6	9	6	2,220	5,404	5,226
6	9	6	1,941	4,812	4,659
..	..	..	279	592	567
5	11	6	2,108	5,211	4,639
4	10	5	1,849	4,630	4,171
1	1	1	259	581	468
..	..	..	1,135	3,280	8,085
..	..	..	811	2,165	2,056
2	6	8	1,878	4,898	4,504

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	District / Taluka / Mahal / City / Town with population of 50,000 or more	Total / Rural/ Urban	Households with two rooms		
			No. of households	No. of members	
				Males	Females
1	2	3	14	15	16
	Sabarkantha District	T	**14,908**	**39,456**	**38,481**
		R	**13,937**	**37,215**	**36,321**
		U	**971**	**2,241**	**2,160**
1	Idar	T	3,540	8,225	8,440
		R	3,278	7,650	7,888
		U	262	575	552
2	Khedbrahma* ..	R	669	1,732	1,726
3	Vijaynagar*	R	216	702	665
4	Bhiloda*	R	886	2,019	2,075
5	Himatnagar	T	2,276	5,983	5,820
		R	2,099	5,583	5,443
		U	177	400	377
6	Prantij	T	2,620	7,362	7,134
		R	2,330	6,661	6,494
		U	290	701	640
7	Modasa	T	2,107	5,589	5,291
		R	1,865	5,024	4,700
		U	242	565	591
8	Meghraj*	R	526	1,510	1,448
9	Malpur*	R	539	1,820	1,625
10	Bayad*	R	1,529	4,514	4,257

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishment Tables*, pp. 516-519.

* Entirely Rural

III·14—*concld.*

Households with three rooms			Households with four rooms			Households with five rooms or more		
No. of households	No. of members		No. of house-holds	No. of members		No. of house-holds	No. of members	
	Males	Females		Males	Females		Males	Females
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1,943	5,296	4,989	547	1,556	1,470	326	1,155	1,028
1,644	4,565	4,373	339	951	913	166	508	469
299	731	616	208	605	557	160	647	559
347	802	811	78	150	156	28	87	97
323	741	751	66	109	119	27	54	64
24	61	60	12	41	37	1	33	33
41	186	104	12	37	32	7	75	16
63	217	201	22	76	70	..	..	..
22	50	50	4	10	13	2	3	2
306	793	713	54	147	133	75	307	280
209	550	538	10	32	18	3	8	9
97	243	175	44	115	115	72	299	271
485	1,233	1,201	157	475	425	84	264	219
363	972	960	67	198	195	41	106	106
122	261	241	90	277	230	43	158	113
236	693	687	100	295	275	56	188	176
180	527	547	38	123	100	12	31	34
56	166	140	62	172	175	44	157	142
68	184	181	19	46	47	19	64	62
20	57	61	5	23	25	2	11	5
355	1,081	980	96	296	285	53	156	170

PART IV—ECONOMIC ORGANISATION

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

INTRODUCTORY

In reconstruction of a rural economy, agriculture plays a vital part. An increase or a decrease in agricultural production directly affects the economy of the region and the welfare of its population, which is mainly agricultural. Systematic efforts to achieve and maintain an optimum level of agricultural production, therefore, assume greater importance. Development of irrigational facilities, conservation of soil resources, adequate supplies of fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides, implements, etc., and provision of timely credit and extension services are the chief measures to increase agricultural production.

About the agricultural conditions obtaining in the pre-Independence days, the following observations are made in the *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project* (1964): "Under the princely regime, agriculture could not much develop because of oppressive taxes and cesses, predominance of Jagirs and primitive methods of cultivation. In the twenties, the Idar State began to attract cultivators from outside by granting lands at cheap prices payable in easy instalments. As a result, agriculturists from Kaira and Baroda came and purchased lands in the Bayad taluka in 1924. Thereafter cultivators from Broach and Surat districts and the Kutch area purchased lands and settled down in the district."

"Except land round about cities, towns and villages, extensive areas in the interior and the hills and forests were lying waste and uncultivated. The Kampawallas[1] purchased such lands at great risk, cleared forests and made lands fit for cultivation by investment of considerable labour and capital For them, the first few years were of great struggle and trial. Their crops were destroyed by severe frosts for two or three years in succession. Several cultivatiors ran into debt with the result that some of them left the district for good. But those who remained flourished subsequently."

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1. The word 'Kampa' is derived from the word 'camp'. There are over 200 Kampas or camps in this district. Modern tools and techniques are employed in these camps for increased agricultural producitön. The original settlers lived in tents, and they, therefore, came to be called Kampawallas. The existence of 'Kampas' is the distinguishing feature of the agricultural economy of this district.

"These Kampawallas may be broadly divided into two sections : (1) Kampawallas from Kaira, Baroda, Broach, Surat and other districts of Gujarat and (2) those from the Kutch area. Both the Kampawallas are industrious and progressive. The Kutchi Kampawallas do all agricultural operations by the personal labour of themselves and their families, whereas the Gujarati Kampawallas get their lands cultivated by labour hired from Chhota-Udepur and Surat district. There might be about 400 families out of which about 350 are Kutchis."

"These Kampawallas are progressive farmers. They have introduced new methods of cultivation, improved implements, fertilisers, etc., and have literally broken a new ground and changed the agricultural face of the district. Cultivation of cotton and groundnut has led to the establishment of many ginning and oil pressing factories in the district. It is therefore, no exaggeration to say that the agricultural economy of the district is centred round the activities of the Kampawallas of the district."[1]

The process of agricultural development was, however, accelerated after the integration of the princely states and estates in 1948 and implementation of the Five Year Plans. Government provides tagavi loans and subsidies for construction of wells, purchase of bullocks and engines, improved implements, fertilizers and insecticides and technical guidance.

Agricultural Population

The important place which agriculture occupies in the district can be gauged from the fact that it provides employment to 80·99 per cent of the total working population of the district as against 68·09 per cent in the State as a whole, according to the 1961 Census. Amongst the working population, cultivators account for 74·15 per cent and agricultural labourers only 6·84 per cent as against 53·32 per cent and 14·77 per cent respectively for the State. The overwhelming percentage of cultivators among the working population of the district shows that the economy of the district is mainly based on personal cultivation. The following table gives details about the number of persons working as cultivators and agricultural labourers in 1961.

	Total	Males	Females
As cultivators	310,353	173,846	136,507
As agricultural labourers	28,640	18,697	9,943
Total	**338,993**	**192,543**	**146,450**

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 21.

1. Patel G. D. (Dr.), *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, Government of Gujarat, (1964), p. 105.

It will appear from the above statement that of the total number of persons engaged in agriculture, 310,353 (91·55 per cent) were cultivators and 28,640 (8·45 per cent) were agricultural labourers. The females formed a substantial proportion in both the categories.

The talukawise break-up of persons engaged in agriculture, both as cultivators and as agricultural labourers, is given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IV·1

Persons engaged in Agriculture, 1961

Taluka / Mahal	Cultivators	Percentage	Agricultural labourers	Percentage	Total agricultural population
1	2	3	4	4	6
District Total	**310,353**	**100.00**	**28,640**	**100.00**	**338,993**
Idar Taluka	45,970	14.81	7,157	24.99	53,127
Khedbrahma Taluka ..	34,847	11.23	1,933	6.75	36,780
Vijaynagar Mahal ..	13,701	4.42	199	0.70	13,900
Bhiloda Taluka ..	38,399	12.37	1,421	4.96	39,820
Himatnagar Taluka .	30.700	9.89	4,005	13.98	34,705
Prantij Taluka ..	29,990	9.66	5,376	18.77	35,366
Modasa Taluka .	36,609	11.80	4,100	14.32	40 709
Meghraj Taluka ..	26,479	8.53	371	1.30	26,850
Malpur Mahal ..	17,511	5.64	385	1.34	17,896
Bayad Taluka ..	36,147	11.65	3,693	12.89	39,840

Source :
Census of India 1961, *General Population Tables* Vol V, Part II-A, (1963), Ahmedabad, pp. 268 and 275.

The statement shows that within the district, the proportion of agricultural labourers was the highest (24·99 per cent) in the Idar taluka and the lowest (0·70 per cent) in the Vijaynagar mahal.

Besides agriculture, a number of allied occupations provided livelihood to a large number of people as will be seen from the following statement.

STATEMENT IV·2

Population engaged in Allied Agricultural Occupations, 1961

Allied Agricultural Occupations 1	Total 2	Males 3	Females 4
Field produce and plantation crops	476	399	77
Production of other crops (including vegetables) not covered above	320	267	53
Production of fruits and nuts in plantations and orchards	88	72	16
Plantation crops	5	5	..
Forestry and logging	259	225	34
Planting, replanting and conservation of forests ..	134	134	..
Fishing	7	7	..
Livestock and hunting	6,262	3,839	2,423
Production and rearing of livestock (large heads only) mainly for milk and animal such as cow, buffalo, goat, etc.	6,004	3,627	2,377
Rearing of sheep and production of wool ..	247	202	45

Source : *District Census Handbook* 1961, Sabarkantha, Part II, p. 34.

From the above statement it appears that among the allied agricultural occupations, the maximum employment was provided by livestock and hunting.

According to the former *Gazetteer*[1] "Kanbis, Kolis, and Musalmans" were the chief husbandmen, but almost all classes cultivated to some extent. These classes still continue to remain the main agricultural classes in the district.

After merger of the princely States and abolition of the Jagirs, most of the former rulers and Jagirdars and their family members have taken to agriculture as a principal occupation for maintenance. Besides, as a result of the implementation of the Tenancy Legislation and the Ceiling Law, many owners of lands have undertaken personal cultivation of their lands so that, they may not be lost to them. Thus, as a result of the merger of the States and the implementation of the land policy of Government many persons who formerly got their lands cultivated either by tenants or servants are now doing personal cultivation. All the same, the cultivation of lands is concentrated in the Patidars, the Kshatriyas, the Kolis and the members of the Scheduled Tribes.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), p. 369.

LAND UTILISATION

The utilisation of land resources forms a major item in any programme of economic planning especially in an economy which is predominantly agricultural. It reveals the various uses to which land is put and also indicates improved ways of exploitation of its resources for better production.

During the olden days when land was plentiful and the population sparse, fields were allowed to lie fallow every third year. However, as the pressure of population on land increased, methods for better utilisation of land resources were thought of. As the land could not be left fallow, to prevent exhaustion, it was manured and a rotation of crops was practised.

The following statement gives details of land utilisation during the year 1950-51, 1956-57, 1960-61 and 1968-69.

STATEMENT IV·3

Land Utilisation, 1950-51, 1956-57, 1960-61 and 1968-69

(IN '00 HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Classification of area	1950-51*	Percentage	1956-57*	Percentage	1960-61*	Percentage	1968-69†	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Total reporting area for land utilisation purposes ..	6,119	100.00	7,042	100.00	7,086	100.00	7,249	100.00
1	Forest	269	4.40	730	10.37	862	12.17	1,321	18.22
2	Land put to non-agricultural uses	4	0.06	100	1.42	232	3.27	119	1.64
3	Barren and unculturable land	1,036	16.93	1,178	16.73	913	12.88	419	5.78
4	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	312	5.10	270	3.83	327	4.61	327	4.51
5	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown .	33	0.54	..	..	12	0.17	..	..
6	Culturable waste ..	378	6.18	211	3.00	233	3.29	193	2.66
7	Fallow lands other than current fallows	260	4.25	115	1.63	121	1.71	90	1.24
8	Current fallows	118	1.93	236	3.35	50	0.71	254	3.51
9	Net area sown	3,709	60.61	4,202	59.67	4,336	61.19	4.526	62.44
10	Total cropped area .	4,027	65.81	4,726	67.11	4,693	66.23	4,972	68.59
11	Area sown more than once ..	318	5.20	524	7.44	357	5.04	446	6.15

Source :

* *Basic Agricultural Statistics*, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State Ahmedabad, (1969), pp. 26-27.

† Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

The reporting area for land utilisation has increased by about 113,000 hectares as a result of survey of unsurveyed villages between the years 1950-51 and 1968-69. The total area under crop has increased from 65·81 per cent to 68·59 per cent of the total reporting area. The area under forest has increased steadily from 4·40 per cent in 1950-51 to 18·22 per cent in 1968-69. Increase in forest area was attributed to transfer of land from Revenue Department to Forest Department and new survey carried out by the Forest Department. The increasing non-agricultural activity consisting of construction of houses, factories, etc., is reflected in the increase of the area under non-agricultural uses from 0·06 per cent in 1950-51 to 1·64 per cent in 1968-69. At the same time, barren and unculturable land has been considerably reduced from 16·93 per cent to 5·78 per cent and the culturable waste from 6·18 per cent to 2·66 per cent. This shows that the trend is towards better utilization of the agricultural resources. Area sown more than once has increased from 5·20 per cent to 6·15 per cent between 1950 and 1968. This may be attributed to the package of improved practices introduced under the Five Year Plans in the district.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation is an essential condition for intensive agriculture and increasing crop yields. The development of irrigation also helps to rebuild the agricultural economy. In many parts of this district, rainfall is scanty and uneven. It is, therefore, necessary to improve the water resources and utilise them properly.

In former times, irrigation facilities were very much limited. The old *Administration Reports of the Idar State* pointed out, "the great scope for developing and expanding irrigation facilities in the State by sinking new wells, repairing old wells and by bunding big rivers and streamlets wherever possible" to utilise their water for irrigation purposes. The water that passed through rivers and streamlets in the State was not utilised for irrigation purposes and many old wells were neglected for want of repairs and their water remained unutilised Much cultivable land of the State remained unoccupied because of the absence of irrigation facilities. During the early thirties the State was seriously thinking of undertaking an irrigation project with the advice of an Expert Irrigation Engineer. But that could not materialise as the expert left the State service.

Before the introduction of the Five Year Plans, only 8·35 per cent of the cultivated area in the district was covered by irrigation. This percentage gradually increased to 13·81 per cent in 1968-69.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS

In the absence of any project of major irrigation work in the district irrigation is provided through the medium and minor irrigation projects.

Medium Irrigation

Till the introduction of the Five Year Plans, the main sources of medium irrigation comprised the canal irrigation from the Hathmati river, the Bokh reservoir and the Karol Dam. These sources provided irrigation mainly in the Prantij taluka of the district.

Three medium irrigation projects were subsequently undertaken. They are described below.

The Hathmati Reservoir Project—The Hathmati river rises in the Rajasthan hill of Gujarat-Malwa plateau and after flowing through the Sabarkantha district for 82 kms. it joins the Sabarmati river about 13 kms. south of Vijapur in the Mehsana district. The Khari river and the Meshvo river also meet the Sabarmati river further south.

The necessity of the Hathmati storage and a storage on the Meshvo river was linked up with the development of irrigation for many years, in the lower reaches of the Khari, Hathmati and Meshvo. The Khari sluices were developed since early days. It was brought under the Public Works Department in the year 1871. The Hathmati canals taking off the Himatnagar weir on the Hathmati river were constructed in 1874 to serve 4,047 hectares of land between the Hathmati and Khari rivers. The third scheme in the Khari was completed in 1884 to serve 2,833 hectares of land located upstream of the Khari. The Bokh feeder canal was completed in 1910 to extend the Hathmati storage by 809 hectares. The working of these three schemes gave rise to disputes on riparian rights. The only solution to these disputes was the construction of the storage reservoir to fulfil the overall demand.

As a result, the Hathmati Reservoir Project was proposed. It was mooted in 1905, reconsidered in 1926 and was shelved due to the strong opposition of the Idar State on the ground that its territories would be submerged. After integration, the scheme was revived, surveyed and planned. It was submitted to Government in 1955 and was approved in 1958. The project comprises earthen dams across the rivers Hathmati and Indrasi near Fatehpur in the Bhiloda taluka. The Indrasi dam was completed in 1963 and the Hathmati dam in 1966. The total cost of the project is estimated in the neighbourhood of Rs. 5·44 crores. The whole scheme including dams, canals, branches and distributories is now nearing completion. The project is planned to provide irrigation to 37,595 hectares of land in Bhiloda, Himatnagar and Prantij talukas of the district, besides Dehgam taluka of the Ahmedabad district. It will enable the local cultivators to produce 30,888 tonnes of additional food-grains valued at Rs. 147 lakhs every year. The annual income from revenue is estimated at Rs 15·83 lakhs. The net return of the project after full development will be at the rate of 4·37 per cent per year.

The Meshvo Reservoir Project—The scheme was originally mooted in 1926 by an engineer of the Nizam of Hydrabad but was shelved because of the pressure from the Idar State. It was revised in 1945, surveyed in 1947-48 and was given administrative approval in 1958. The project consists of one earthen dam across the river Meshvo near Shamalaji in the Bhiloda taluka. The dam was completed in 1964. The total cost of the project is Rs. 3·14 crores.

As regards the benefits of the project, it is expected to provide irrigation to 23,876 hectares in the Sabarkantha and Kaira districts resulting in 18,289 tonnes of additional food-grains valued at Rs. 117 lakhs, annually. The annual income from revenue on full development will be Rs. 6·43 lakhs. The net return of the project will be at the rate of 3·26 per cent per year.

The Harnav River Scheme, Stage I—The scheme of using the Harnav river water for irrigation purposes in the Khedbrahma taluka was conceived after integration. The object of the scheme is to develop the backward and undeveloped Adivasi areas of the Khedbrahma taluka. The entire area was mostly uncultivated being covered with thick forests. The Kampawallas from outside the district came and settled here and developed the land for cultivation. To provide irrigation to them, it was decided to construct a reservoir on the river Harnav. Three alternative sites for its construction were proposed. These sites were near Chhapra, Atarsumba and Abhapur. Detailed geo-physical survey of these sites was undertaken and the site near Chhapra was initially selected. It was finally decided that as no solid foundations were available at Chhapra, construction of a dam was not feasible. Hence a pick-up weir with a left bank canal was proposed at that site. The construction of the weir was taken up as a first stage of the project. The project was administratively approved in 1955 and the work was started in the same year.

By 1963, the pick-up weir, the main canal, the feeder and branch canals were completed. The tanks coming within the command of the scheme have been remodelled and put to irrigation. The total revised cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 47 lakhs.

The scheme is planned to irrigate an area of 4,047 hectares in the north-eastern parts of the district and to protect crops which usually fail for want of last waterings in September. The scheme, on completion, will earn a revenue of about Rs. 1 lakh per year. The percentage of return will be 2·08 after tenth year of its completion.

The Sabarmati Reservoir Project—Rising from the Aravali Hills and descending in southernly direction, the river Sabarmati traverses in the Rajasthan State and the districts of Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Ahmedabad in the Gujarat State before emptying its waters in the gulf of Cambay. Its

total length is 418 kms. and is joined by important tributories like Wakal, Harnav, Hathmati, Meshvo and Vatrak. The river upto the project site at Dharoi (Mehsana district) runs in a hilly area with dense forest. The soils downstream are sandy loam to loamy and suitable for irrigation.

The area of North Gujarat is one amongst the least developed parts of the Gujarat State. The minimum annual rainfall recorded is 6·41 inches (1899) and the maximum rainfall is 52·24 inches (1944). The rains are very sporadic in nature. The project is very important for the area as it serves the interest of one of the backward and under developed areas of the State.

Attempts of harnessing the resources of the Sabarmati date as far back as the latter half of the 19th century when the construction of a small weir near Ahmedabad was thought of by the Bombay Public Works Department.

The reservoir at Dharoi is proposed to be formed by construction of a composite dam of 1,228 metres length and by plugging of four saddles two on right bank and two on left bank with earthen bunds totalling to a length of 6,099 metres. The reservoir will impound 1,003 m. c. m., of water. This storage will be utilised for water supply to Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar besides providing irrigation to an area of 28,328 hectares in Mehsana and 8,498 hectares in this district.

Minor Irrigation

After the introduction of the Five Year Plans, significant advances have been made in the development of minor irrigation, particularly in utilisation of ground water resources.

Minor irrigation works mainly consist of tanks, wells and other sources such as lift irrigation, tube-wells, etc. Of these, wells remain the main source of irrigation in the district providing irrigation to about 97 per cent of the irrigated area.

Prior to Independence, six tanks as mentioned below, with an irrigation potential of 465 hectares were in use in the district.

Sl. No.	Name of Tank	Taluka	Irrigation potential in hectares
1	2	3	4
1	Tank at Agiya	Khedbrahma	121
2	Tank at Matoda	Khedbrahma	81
3	Tank at Unchi-Dhanal	Khedbrahma	41
4	Tank at Gadhada Shamalaji	Khedbrahma	40
5	Tank at Vartol	Khedbrahma	40
6	Tank at Harsol	Prantij	142
	Total		465

During the First Five Year Plan, thirteen new minor irrigation tanks were taken up. Six of these were in Khedbrahma, three in Bhiloda, three in Idar and one in Meghraj. Of these, eight tanks were completed and the remaining five were continued in the Second Plan as spill-over work. At the end of the First Five Year Plan, irrigation was provided to 409 hectares of land. Thus, a total of 894 hectares of land was brought under irrigation.

During the Second Plan, a total of 27 new works were taken on hand. Six of them were in Bhiloda, five in Modasa, four each in Khedbrahma and Idar, three in Meghraj, two each in Himatnagar and Malpur, and one in Bayad. 21 of these were completed and six were taken up as spill-over work in the Third Plan. The five works which were spill-over from the First Plan were also completed during the Second Plan. A total of 369 hectares of additional land were brought under irrigation at a cost of Rs. 7·28 lakhs.

During the Third Plan period 22 spill-over works of the Second Plan were completed and five new works were taken on hand, two in Meghraj and one each in Malpur, Prantij and Khedbrahma creating an additional irrigation capacity of 859 hectares at a cost of Rs. 12·65 lakhs. The total area brought under irrigation at the end of Three Plans thus totalled 2,587 hectares.

The list of minor irrigation works in use in the district is given in Annexure I at the end of this chapter.

Tube-wells -The sub-soil water resources in this district are rich and there is considerable scope for drilling tube-wells. A scheme for the construction of tube-wells was taken up during the Second Plan. Work of drilling seven tube-wells (all in Prantij taluka) was done during the period. Out of the seven tube-wells, four were declared successful. During the Third Plan period the work of drilling six additional tube-wells was undertaken. Of the six, four were found successful. Thereafter, in 1966-67, the work of constructing six additional tube-wells was taken on hand. By 1970, this work was completed.

Check Dams—The scheme of constructing check dams across the local nullahs was started in the year 1968. By construction of check dams the rain water which was formerly wasted is stored and thereby the water table of the wells located nearby has come up. There is enough scope for constructing check dams in many parts of the district. In 1967-68, a scheme for constructing check dams was introduced in Bayad and Malpur talukas which are economically backward. Annexure II at the end of the chapter shows the progress in the construction of the check dams in the district.

SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY

As stated earlier, the area under irrigation in this district forms 13·81 per cent of the net area under cultivation (1968-69). Inspite of development of other sources of irrigation, wells have remained the most important source. The following are the figures of area irrigated by different sources of water supply in the district between 1950-51 and 1968-69.

Area Irrigated by Sources

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

Source	1950-51*	1956-57*	1960-61*	1968-69†
1	2	3	4	5
Government canals ..	37	30	7	28
Tanks	39	8	2	4
Wells	234	432	357	592
Other sources ..	..	6	2	1
Total	**310**	**476**	**368**	**625**

Source :

* *Basic Agricultural Statistics*, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, (1968), p. 40.

† Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

It will appear from the above statement that wells continue to be the most important source of irrigation, accounting for about 95 per cent of the total irrigated area in 1968-69. The Government canals provided irrigation to nearly 4 per cent and tanks to only 0·6 per cent of the area under irrigation. Canal irrigation is provided mostly by gravitational flow, while in the case of wells, *kos* and other water-lifting devices are for the most part manually operated with the aid of bullocks. Increasing use of oil and electric power is being made by cultivators in the district for lifting and pumping water from the wells for irrigation purposes. These devices have proved more economical and easy to handle in the long run, though the initial capital expenditure involved in the purchase of oil-engine, electric motor and pump is quite large.

Irrigation facilities available talukawise, during 1968-69 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IV-4

Sources of Water Supply and Area Irrigated, 1968-69

	IN NUMBERS								IN HECTARES				
			Wells						Area Irrigated by				
				Govern-ment	Private								
Taluka / Mahal	Govern-ment Canals	Govern-ment Tube-wells	Masonry	Masonry	Non-Masonry	Reservoirs	Tanks	Oil-engines	Govern-ment Canals	Tanks	Wells	Other Sources	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bayad ..	..	..	..	4,612	627	..	31	1,692	..	..	3,407	..	3,407
Bhiloda ..	..	..	..	3,142	2,118	..	10	547	..	..	7,136	..	7,136
Himatnagar ..	1	..	..	4,174	401	..	10	2,461	..	..	9,443	..	9,443
Idar ..	..	..	..	8,907	1,573	..	26	5,089	..	..	19,671	..	19,671
Khedbrahma ..	1	..	..	3,305	703	1	14	933	108	292	4,731	103	5,234
Modasa ..	1	..	..	6,960	540	..	40	2,038	1,815	..	4,827	..	6,642
Malpur ..	..	..	..	3,288	..	1	10	199		..	1,249	..	1,249
Meghraj ..	..	..	..	1,605	1,221	..	45	470	..	..	1,254	..	1,254
Prantij ..	1	9	1	4,366	675	..	19	1,483	765	133	5,866	..	6,764
Vijaynagar ..	2	..	..	710	450	..	5	86	90	..	1,623	..	1,713
District Total ..	**6**	**9**	**1**	**41,069**	**8,308**	**2**	**210**	**15,198**	**2,778**	**425**	**59,207**	**103**	**62,513**

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

The statement indicates that out of 6 Government canals, Vijaynagar has two and Himatnagar, Khedbrahma, Modasa and Prantij have one each. There are nine Government tube-wells all in Prantij. The number of wells in the district is over 49,000. Of them, 41,000 are masonry and about 8,000 are non-masonry. In the group of masonry, the Idar taluka claims the highest number (8,907), followed by Modasa (6,960), Bayad (4,612) and Prantij (4,366). Vijaynagar has the smallest number of wells because of its hilly and forest character. In the case of non-masonry wells, the Bhiloda taluka claims the highest number (2,118), followed by Idar (1,573), Meghraj (1,221), etc. So far as tanks are concerned, out of 210, Meghraj claims the highest number (45), followed by Modasa (40) and Bayad (31). Vijaynagar once again stands at the bottom in the list. The number of oil-engines in the district is over 15,000. Idar claims the highest number of oil-engines (5,089), followed by Himatnagar (2,461), Modasa (2,038), etc. This may be attributed to the large number of wells situated in these areas which are inhabited by progressive farmers.

Area Irrigated

Increase in the acreage under irrigation is of considerable importance, as it reduces the dependence on monsoon rains and enables cultivation of the high-yielding crops. As noted earlier, the district has 62,513 hectares of land under irrigation. Idar has the maximum area of 19,671 hectares under irrigation followed by Himatnagar (9,443 hectares), Bhiloda (7,136 hectares) and Prantij (6,764 hectares). Malpur has the least irrigated area (1,249 hectares) in the district. The need for providing irrigational facilities in Malpur, Meghraj and Vijaynagar is apparent.

The principal food crops irrigated in the district are wheat, maize and *bajri*. Irrigated wheat and maize are grown in almost all the talukas, while irrigated *bajri* is grown largely in Prantij, Modasa, Bayad and Himatnagar. Under the impact of the Five Year Plans, irrigated cotton is also grown extensively. Idar, Himatnagar, Modasa, Khedbrahma and Bhiloda covered large areas under irrigated cotton during the year 1968-69.

The following are the comparative figures of area under irrigated crops between the years 1950-51 and 1968-69.

STATEMENT IV-5

Area Under Irrigated Crops

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

Crops	1950-51*	1955-56*	1960-61*	1968-69**
1	2	3	4	5
Total food Crops	*303*	*368*	*320*	*448*
Rice	9	7	9	7
Jowar	N	2	..	3
Bajri	N	2	2	28
Barley	8	3	3	7
Maize	62	49	51	66
Ragi	..	1	..	..
Wheat	179	240	226	272
Other cereals	24	3	10	8
Total cereals	*282*	*307*	*301*	*391*
Gram	15	14	7	11
Other pulses	2	2	3	9
Total pulses	*17*	*16*	*10*	*20*
Sugar-cane	3	4	2	10
Other food crops	1	41	7	27
Total non-food crops	*15*	*101*	*139*	*186*
Groundnut	..	..	N	4
Sesamum	..	1	..	N
Rape and Mustard	3	4	N	1
Castor	..	..	..	N
Cotton	1	88	134	168
Other non-food crops	11	8	5	13
Total area under irrigated crops	**318**	**469**	**459**	**634**

Source :

* *Basic Agricultural Statistics*, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, (1969), pp. 54-57.

** Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

N = Negligible

Of the total irrigated area of about 63,400 hectares in 1968-69, 44,800 hectares (70·66 per cent) were occupied by food crops and the remainder, *i. e.*, 29·34 per cent by non-food crops. It is interesting to note that the non-food (cash) crops which occupied only a small area a few years back, have gradually covered larger area particularly after the introduction of the Five Year Plans.

The talukawise figures are given in the statement appended at the end of the chapter.

SOIL CONSERVATION

The soil constitutes the physical basis of our agricultural enterprise. Land development in the form of soil conservation measures is, therefore, vital to agricultural production. Wind and water are the main agent of soil erosion accentuated by deforestation and excessive grazing. Thus soil erosion is largely responsible for low productivity in agriculture.

Soil conservation comprises contour bunding, reclamation of land, afforestation, *nala*-plugging, *kotar* reclamation and terracing. Of these, the scheme of contour-bunding is undertaken in the district very extensively. The scheme is voluntary and is implemented through the Agriculture Department. It is undertaken practically in all types of soils. During the First Plan Period, the scheme was first taken up in the Khedbrahma and Idar talukas. In the Second Plan, the scheme gathered momentum and covered all talukas and mahals except the talukas of Meghraj and Himatnagar. In the Third Plan, these two talukas were also covered.

The scheme of contour bunding is enforced under the provisions of the Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1942. After the formation of the Gujarat State, a separate sub-division for soil conservation was established in April, 1964 at Himatnagar for implementing this scheme.

The following are the figures of progress of soil conservation schemes from 1964-65 to 1971-72.

STATEMENT IV-6

Progress of Soil Conservation Schemes

(AREA IN HECTARES)
(EXPENDITURE IN RS.)

Year	Name of the Scheme															
	Contour Bunding		Rural Man Power Project		Land Reclamation		*Nala* Bunding		Famine Works		Research on Nursery		Work in Backward talukas		Total	
	Area	Rs.	Area	Rs.	Area	Rs.	Area	Rs.	Area	Rs.	Area	Rs.	Area	Rs.	Area	Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1964-65 ..	1,332	136,756	165	6,227	98	16,300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,595	159,283
1965-66 ..	3,868	397,727	1,277	98,900	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,145	496,627
1966-67 ..	908	219,063	422	..†	..	..	573	..†	171	13,260	..	..	..	..	2,074	232,323
1967-68 ..	111	21,659	..	..	..	..	69	1,278	1,602	148,872	..	..	..	..	1,782	171,809
1968-69 ..	187	48,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,753	199,409	..	2,984	..	..	1,940	251,093
1969-70 ..	62	11,560	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,070	407,359	..	6,054	..	..	3,132	424,973
1970-71 ..	19	1,367	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,687	232,680	..	15,144	304	34,988	2,010	284,179
1971-72 (upto July 1971)	107	22,066	..	..	..	..	8	8,433	..	..	..	2,560	..	..	205	33,059
Total ..	**6,684**	**858,898**	**1,864**	**105,127**	**98**	**16,300**	**650**	**9,711**	**8,283**	**1,001,580**	..	**26,742**	**304**	**34,988**	**17,883**	**2,053,286**

Source :
Sub-divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Himatnagar.

† Expenditure included in the expenditure figures of contour bunding.

The above statement shows that contour bunding work was carried out in 6,684 hectares at a cost of Rs. 8.58 lakhs during the period 1964-65 to 1971-72. The Rural Man Power Project which was introduced in the district in the year 1963-64 was discontinued in 1966-67. However, under this scheme, an area of 1,864 hectares was covered at a cost of Rs. 1.05 lakhs In 1964-65, 98 hectares were reclaimed under Land Reclamation scheme at a cost of about Rs. 0·16 lakhs. *Nala* bunding was done in 650 hectares. Famine relief works were carried out in 8,283 hectares which accounted for Rs. 10·01 lakhs. In short, by 1971, a total area of 17,883 hectares was covered under soil conservation schemes at a total cost of Rs. 20·53 lakhs.

SOIL

Sandy, *goradu* and medium-black are the three main types of soils found in almost all the talukas and mahals. However, the sandy soil is chiefly found in Modasa, Meghraj, Malpur, Himatnagar, Bhiloda and Idar; the *goradu* in Modasa, Prantij, Himatnagar, Bhiloda and Malpur; and the medium-black soil in Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar, Bayad, Bhiloda and Idar.

CROPPING PATTERN

The cropping pattern, which existed before the turn of the century has been described in the former *Gazetteer*[1] as under :

"The style of tillage in the Mahi Kantha differs little from that in other parts of Gujarat. The crops grown are, of cereals : rice, *dangar*, oryza sativa ; wheat, *ghau*, Triticum aestivum ; maize, *makai*, Zea mays ; barley *jav*, Hordeum hexastichon, millet ; *bajri*, Penicillaria spicata ; Indian millet, *juvar*, Sorghum Vulgare ; *kang*, Panicum italicum ; *banti*, Panicum spicatum ; *bavto*, penicum frumentaceum ; *kodra*, paspalum sceobiculatum ; and *cheno*, Panicum miliaceum. Of pulses : *adad*, Phaseolus mungo ; *mag*, Phaseolus radiatus ; *chana*, Cicer arietinum ; *math*, Phaseolus aconitifolius ; *chola*, Vigna cating ; *val*, Dolichos lablab ; *kalthi*, Dolicos uniflorus ; *tuver*, Cajanus indicus ; and *guvar*, Cymopsis psoralioides. Of Fibres ; cotton, *ru*, Gossypium herbaceum ; flax *bhindi*, Hibiscus populneus ; and Bombay hemp, *san*, Crotalaria juncea. Of miscellaneous crops : sugar-cane, *serdi*, Saccharum officinarum ; poppy, *khaskhas*, Papaver somniferum : gingelly seed, *tal*, Sesamum indicum , rapeseed, *sarsav*, Brassica, napus ; *rajagra*, Amaranthus polygamus ; *methi*, Trigonella foenugraecum ; coriander seed, *dhana*, Corindrum sativum ; cumin seed, *jiru*, Cuminum cyminum ; *variali*, Foeniculum panmorum : *suva*, Pimpinella anisum ; and *singoda*, Trapa bispinosa. The staple grains are the millets, *bajri* and *juvar*, wheat, *ghau*, a coarse description of rice, and in the hilly parts of the district, maize, *makai*, the chief food of the Bhils.

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1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), pp. 370-371.

"Of Cereals, wheat, *ghau*, Triticum aestivum, barley, *jav*, Hordeum hexastichon, and *cheno*, Panicum miliaceum, sown in dry lands in October and November, and reaped in March and April, are cold weather or late, *rabi* crops. The rest are early, *kharif*, or rainy season crops, sown in dry lands in June and July, and reaped in September and October. Rice, Oryza sativa, sown in nurseries and planted out, wants moist and marshy land. It is of seven kinds : *sutarsal*, *vari*, *kharsu*, *sathi*, *panjaria*, *sengda* and *sejani*. Rice, when it is sown is termed *dangar*; after it is reaped and ready for cooking, it is called *chokha*. During the last twenty years no improvement has taken place in the quality of the rice or other staple crops grown. The tillage area of the district has spread considerably, but there are no means of ascertaining the exact increase. Wheat, *ghau*, Triticum aestivum, of two kinds, *vajia* and *katha*, grows freely especially in the valleys in the north of the district. If watered it is of excellent quality. Millet, *bajri*, Penicillaria spicata, the common food of the people, is grown in the plains and not in the hilly parts. It thrives best in sandy soils. Maize, *makai*, Zea mays is grown much in the uplands.

Of Pulses, gram, *chana*, Cicer arietinum, a late rabi crop, is shown in dry land in September and October and reaped in March ; the rest are early *kharif* crops, shown in dry lands in June and July and reaped in October and November."

The pattern of cropping has not changed much over the years except that cultivation of cash crops like groundnut, cotton, etc., has now increased. The principal crops now grown in the district include, in their order of importance, maize, *bajri*, wheat, paddy and *jowar* (kharif) among food-crops and groundnut and cotton among non-food crops.

The following statement gives figures of area under principal crops for the period between 1950-51 and 1968-69.

STATEMENT IV·7

Area under Principal Crops

(IN '00 HECTARES)

Crops 1	1950-51* 2	1958-59* 3	1968-69† 4
Rice	297	259	227
Jowar	381	176	203
Bajri	452	529	599
Barley	9	5	8
Maize	355	523	824
Ragi	10	9	6
Wheat	207	227	280
Other cereals	216	163	145
Total cereals	*1,927*	*1,891*	*2,292*
Gram	93	103	23
Tur	13	10	53
Other pulses	160	76	78
Total pulses	*266*	*189*	*154*
Total food-grains	*2,193*	*2,080*	*2,446*
Sugar-cane	3	2	10
Chillies	11	6	7
Groundnut	633	1,039	1,077
Sesamum	276	121	119
Castor	44	45	54
Rape and mustard	5	8	2
Total oil seeds	*958*	*1,213*	*1,252*
Cotton	584	1,003	1,025
Tobacco	6	2	1

Source :

* *Statistics of Area, Production and Yield per Acre of Principal Crops in Gujarat State for the period 1949-50 to 1963-64* Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, (1965), pp. 26-166.

† Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

The statement shows that between 1950 and 1968 the acreage under food-grains has increased. In respect of individual crops, maize has registered the highest increase (132 per cent) followed by *bajri* and wheat *Jowar* has, however, decreased from 38,100 hectares in 1950-51 to 20,300 hectares in 1968-69 and rice from 29,700 hectares to 22,700 hectares during the same period.

There has been a considerable increase in recent years in the cultivation of non-food or cash crops, mainly groundnut and cotton. The area under latter has risen from 58,400 hectares in 1950-51 to 102,500 hectares in 1968-69, while that under groundnut has increased from 63,300 hectares

to 107,700 hectares during the same period. However, the area under sesamum and tobacco has decreased considerably from 27,600 to 11,900 hectares and from 600 to 100 hectares, respectively. The gross cropped area was 497,235 hectares in 1968-69 of which food crops claimed 50·37 per cent and the non-food crops 49·63 per cent.

OUT-TURN OF CROPS

The out-turn of principal crops in the district during the period from 1950-51 to 1968-69 is given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IV·8

Out-turn of Principal Crops

(IN '00 TONNES)

Crops 1	1950-51* 2	1958-59* 3	1968-69† 4
Rice	200	119	97
Jowar	100	66	74
Bajri	42	235	250
Barley	5	3	4
Maize	209	835	448
Ragi	7	7	3
Wheat	192	227	358
Other cereals	180	128	57
Total cereals	*935*	*1,620*	*1,291*
Gram	34	46	10
Tur	4	3	13
Other pulses	46	22	20
Total pulses	*84*	*71*	*43*
Total food grains	*1,019*	*1,691*	*1,334*
Sugar-cane	15	10	26
Chillies	4	2	4
Groundnut	426	990	177
Sesamum	82	28	23
Castor	14	14	26
Rape and mustard	2	3	..
Total oil seeds	*524*	*1,035*	*226*
Cotton	386	1,179	579
Tobacco	4	2	1

Source :

* *Statistics of Area, Production and Yield per Acre of Principal Crops in Gujarat State, for the Period 1949-50 to 1963-64*, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, (1965), pp. 27-167.

† Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

NOTE :

1. Out-turn of sugar-cane is recorded in terms of '00 tonnes of *gur*.
2. Out-turn of cotton is recorded in terms of bales of 180 kg. each.

The principal crops in which there is a noteworthy increase between 1950-51 and 1968-69 are *bajri*, maize and wheat among cereals and *tur* among pulses. Among cash crops, the out-turn of sugar cane has increased from 1,500 to 2,600 tonnes and castor from 1,400 to 2,600 tonnes during the period. Steady decline is reported in respect of rice, other cereals and other pulses among food crops and sesamum and tobacco among non-food crops.

METHODS OF CULTIVATION

Cereals

Bajri—*Bajri* is an important cereal crop occupying the largest area under food crops. In 1968-69, it covered 59,868 hectares, *i. e.*, about 12·04 per cent of the total cropped area in the district. It is chiefly grown on sandy, *gorudu* and medium-black soils. As regards methods of its cultivation, the first agricultural operation is the preparatory tillage of the field which is done before the monsoon in April or May. Sowing usually starts after the first good rainfall and is done by local *dantal* keeping a distance of about one foot between the two rows. After sowing, two weedings and two interculturings are done. Usually fertilizers are given to the hybrid crop. The grains are formed in the beginning of September and the crop is harvested in October. The harvested crop is kept in the field for a few days after which the earheads are removed and carted to the threshing yard. The crop is then threshed under bullock-feet. The crop is grown more extensively in the talukas of Prantij, Modasa, Bayad, Himatnagar and Idar. Cultivators usually keep a part of the produce for their own use and sell the rest in open market.

Maize—Maize is another important cereal crop in the district. It is grown in all talukas, but more extensively in Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar Bhiloda, Idar, Meghraj and Modasa. Formerly only local varieties were sown which were replaced first by Sameri and then by the hybrid maize. As this variety did not thrive well it was again replaced by the composite maize. The fields are prepared as usual in April-May. Sowing starts after the first rainfall of the season in July. Seeds are sown at the rate of 6½ kg per acre in parallel rows at a distance of 2 feet. During the preparatory tillage, ten cartloads of farm yard manure per acre are applied to the crop. High yielding varieties of this crop require a high dose of fertilizers. The area covered under this crop was 82,458 hectares in 1968-69 or 32·92 per cent of the area under food crops.

Paddy—Paddy is grown both as irrigated and as unirrigated or dry crop. Irrigated paddy is grown in Prantij and in some parts of Malpur taluka. The main varieties grown are Sukhvel 20 and Sutarsal. Dry or unirrigated paddy is grown mainly in Khedbrahma Vijaynagar, Malpur, Meghraj, Modasa and Idar, where the Sathi 34-36 variety is generally in use. The total area under rice was 22,679 hectares in 1968-69, *i. e.*, 4·56 per cent of the total cropped area.

Paddy is generally transplanted in July-August after a good rainfall. The dry paddy is grown by drilling in month of June or July. The seed rate per acre is about 15 kg. for drilled crop and 5 kg. for transplanted crop.

Wheat—Wheat is the main rabi crop in the district, grown generally in *goradu* and medium-black soils. It is grown all over the district but more extensively in Idar, Prantij, Himatnagar and Modasa talukas. Its preparatory tillage is done after the kharif crops are harvested. Formerly, the local variety called *vajiya*, was grown but due to its susceptibility to rust it was replaced by N. P. 718 and 710. These varieties were replaced by N. P. 824 which proved superior and rust resistant. This veriety was grown all over the district till late but after the introduction of the well-known Mexican varieties during the Third Plan period, they are not extensively grown. Particularly popular are the Kalyan, Sona and Sonalika. The Mexican varieties give larger yield provided proper use of fertilizers, irrigation and plant protection appliances is made. Moreover, these varieties mature early. The total area under wheat in 1968-69 was 28,038 hectares or 5·64 per cent of the total cropped area.

Groundnut—Groundnut is the main cash crop of the district covering 107,649 hectares *i. e.*, 21·65 per cent of total cropped area of the district in 1968-69. Himatnagar, Modasa, Bayad, Idar, Bhiloda, Prantij and Malpur are the main groundnut growing talukas.

The spreading type of Samarala variety is grown all over the district. Preparatory tillage is done in April-May. After a good rainfall, seeds are drilled keeping a distance of 24 to 27 inches between the two rows. Application of 5 kg., of Nitrogen, 30 kg., of Diammonium Phosphate plus 80 kg., of Super Phosphate and 15 kg., of Phosphatic fertilizers give a larger yield per acre. The crop is harvested in the month of October or November.

Cotton—Cotton is another important cash crop of the district. As described in the old *Gazetteer*[1] : "Cotton, *ru*, *Gossypium herbaceum*, is sown in dry land in July and August and reaped in January and February. During 1875-76, the area of land under cotton was about 3,900 acres ; the out-turn is roughly estimated at about 150 tons (420 *Khandis*), most of it of middling quality and of a total estimated value of about £5 500 (Rs. 55,000)."

Prior to 1940, only short staple varieties of cotton were grown. An attempt to improve the quality of cotton was made for the first time in 1940, when the Vijay Cotton was introduced with a view to replacing the local short staple varieties. Further improvement in this regard was

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), p. 371.

made under the First Five Year Plan when other varieties of superior quality such as the long staple Indo-American Cotton, 134 Co 2, and 170 Co 2, were introduced in this district. In 1953-54. these new varieties were grown in an area of 9,000 acres only. But as the soil and climatic conditions in the district were found suitable, larger areas came under these improved strains and by the end of 1955-56, an area of about one lakh acres covered improved varieties of cotton. The results achieved due to introduction of improved varieties of cotton are very encouraging. The production of cotton in this district which was only 1,833 bales in 1953-54, increased to 31,093 bales in 1955-56.

In 1968-69, cotton occupied an area of 102,488 hectares or 20·61 per cent of the total cropped area. Generally, it is grown in black and medium black soils. The dry as well as irrigated cotton is grown in the district. The improved varieties like Digvijay and Gujarat-67 are largely grown by the cultivators. Recently, hybrid-4 is also used as an irrigated variety. Modasa, Bayad, Himatnagar and Idar are the main cotton-growing talukas.

Rotation of Crops

As cotton and wheat are the major irrigated crops of the district, the usual rotations practised by the cultivators are cotton followed by cotton or maize or groundnut and wheat followed by groundnut or *bajri* or maize.

Kharif and Rabi Crops

The food and non-food crops grown in the district can be grouped under two seasonal heads, namely, kharif and rabi. The kharif or rainfed crops are sown in June and July and harvested in September-October while rabi or irrigated crops are sown in October-November and harvested in February-March. The main kharif crops of the district are cotton, groundnut, *bajri*, maize and paddy. The main rabi crops are wheat and gram.

Crop Calendar

The calendar of sowing and harvesting operations for important crops in the district is given below.

Sl. No.	Crops	Sowing time	Harvesting time
1	2	3	4
1	*Bajri* ..	June-July	October-November
2	Paddy ..	June-July	November-December
3	Maize (Kharif) ..	June-July	October-November
4	Maize (Rabi) ..	September-October	February-March
5	Maize (Summer) ..	February-March	May-June
6	Wheat ..	October-November	February-March
7	Groundnut ..	June-July	October-November
8	Cotton ..	June-July	March-April

Source :
District Agricultural Officer, Himatnagar.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Agricultural development to a considerable extent depends upon the availability of the modern or improved tools and techniques.

The main implements used by the agriculturists in the past as described in the old *Gazetteer* were "the plough, *hal*, the clod-crusher, *samar* or *ramp*; the sowing drill, *vania* or *chavar*; the weeder, *karvari* or *ramp*; the leather bag and rope for drawing water, *kos-varat*; the hoe, *kodali*; the axe, *koludi*; the spade, *pavdo* and the sickle, *datardu*." A set of tools cost Rs. 35 and a pair of oxen from Rs. 20 to Rs. 100. A cart, if the cultivator husbandman had one, was worth about Rs. 100.[1]

With the passage of time and with the spread of scientific knowledge, the use of improved varieties of agricultural implements began to increase especially after Independence and under the impact of the Five Year Plans. Iron ploughs came to be used by progressive cultivators. Improved varieties in harrows and seed drills replaced the old ones. Mechanical devices in form of oil-engines and electric pumps began to replace the *kos* and tractors which were non-existent only a few years ago began to be seen on the fields, particularly of large cultivators.

In order to stimulate agricultural production, Government provided financial assistance to cultivators in purchase of improved implements. It was granted in order to popularise the use of improved implements amongst small holders who had not the wherewithal to purchase such implements. As the scheme became very popular Government discontinued grant of subsidy for improved implements.

The following statement gives comparative figures of agricultural implements in use in the district between 1951 and 1966.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), pp. 369-370.

STATEMENT IV-9

Agricultural Implements between 1951 and 1966

Sl. No.	Name of the Implement	1951*	1956*	1961*	1966†
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ploughs	88,525	97,475	115,256	124,518
	(i) Wooden	87,994	92,997	102,957	105,168
	(ii) Iron	531	4,478	12,299	19,350
2	Improved harrows ..	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	50,698
3	Improved seed-drills ..	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	17,781
4	Carts ..	22,254	24,006	31,194	30,231
5	Sugar-cane crushers ..	181	247	269	237
	(i) Power	9	52	44	69
	(ii) Bullocks .. .	172	195	225	168
6	Oil-engines .. .	236	613	2,900	8,645
7	Electric pumps ..	15	47	233	262
8	Tractors .	N. A.	N. A.	140	138
9	*Ghanis* . ..	606	435	368	337
10	Persian wheels or *Rahats* ..	90	214	2,500	1,980

Source :

* *District Census Handbook* 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 161.

† *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Vol. IX, No. 1, Ahmedabad, (1969), pp. 198-199.

N. A.= Not available

It will appear from the statement that the use of improved implements like iron ploughs, oil-engines, electric pumps, etc., has increased considerably under the impact of the Five Year Plans. The number of iron ploughs has increased from 531 in 1951 to 19,350 in 1966. The outstanding fact about the oil-engine is that its use has increased from 236 to 8,645 during the period of 15 years. Similarly, the electric pumps have increased 17 times from 15 to 262 during the same period. Despite the use of motor trucks and other mechanised vehicles, the use of bullock carts has increased from 22,254 to 30,231 between 1951 and 1966 on account of improved roads, transport of goods and persons. The number of sugar-cane crushers has remained static

but the power-driven crushers are gradually increasing. The wooden plough is also still popular because of its cheapness and manocurability.

The number of *ghanis* has registered a steady decline from 606 in 1951 to 337 in 1966 because of the increase in the number of oil mills. Since irrigation in the district is primarily by wells, one may expect increasing use of Persian wheels which has shown steady increase from 90 to 2,500 between 1951 and 1961. However, its number has subsequently declined to 1,980 in 1966, because of the corresponding increase in the use of oil-engines and electric pumps between 1961 and 1966. These trends reflect the gradual mechanisation and modernisation of farming in the district.

PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

Agricultural production can be increased either by extensive cultivation or by intensive cultivation. Extensive cultivation is possible by bringing larger areas under cultivation by reclaiming waste lands, *khar* lands, fallow lands, etc. Intensive cultivation consists of applying scientific methods in cultivation, provision of better seeds evolved through agricultural research, and use of improved implements, chemical fertilizers, etc.

The district has two research stations one at Talod and the other at Khedbrahma. While the former conducts research mainly in cotton and groundnut, the latter confines its research activities to cotton only.

1. *The Regional Research Station, Talod*—The Regional Research Station was established at Talod in 1955. Testing of better varieties of groundnut and cotton is done at this station. It has been proved during the research carried out here that the cotton strain S-C-8-126 is equal, both in yield and staple length, to Gujarat-67 and has two per cent higher ginning percentage than the latter. It is also superior in respect of fibre strength and matures early. Other research schemes carried out here include : (i) a scheme for evolving extra long staple cotton and (ii) foundation seed production of cotton. The research station occupies 28 hectares of land.

2. *The Cotton Research Sub-Station, Khedbrahma*—This sub-station was originally started at Kadiadra (Idar taluka) in 1953 and was shifted to Khedbrahma in 1965. The research carried out here has proved that cotton varieties, No. 3506 and 2678 give higher yield by about 10 per cent as compared to the Digvijay and are also superior in ginning percentage. It was also found that certain Indo-American varieties give 44 per cent to 75 per cent higher yield as compared to Gujarat-67.

3 *The Agricultural Diploma School, Khedbrahma*—For successful implementation of the agricultural development schemes, education and training of young farmers is necessary. With the view to imparting systematic training

to them, the Agricultural Diploma School was started at Khedbrahma in 1965. This school runs a two-year training course and imparts both practical training and theoratical knowledge on agricultural subjects. During the year 1969-70, the school had 21 students on the roll

IMPROVED METHODS OF AGRICULTURE

Before merger, the former State of Idar had attempted several measures to help agriculturists. Though these measures did not have any far-reaching implications, they did help the agriculturists in some way or the other.

For example, in the eighties of the last century, the Idar State had engaged an "Experimental Agent" to import from outside, farmers as cultivators, as well as to take measures calculated to increase the prosperity of cultivators. Two new hamlets were established each with 30 Kanbi cultivators. In many villages the number of cultivators was increased by importing good cultivators from outside the State.[1] Moreover, a model farm was also established during the year 1885-86 with a view to demonstrating the advantage of using the best seeds.

But the efforts of the State to develop its resources by agricultural extension were hindered by the insecurity of life and property experienced during those days The best class of Kanbi cultivators hesitated to settle in a district so liable to Bhil depredations.[2] However, a few Kanbi families came to reside in Idar and took up lands in Khalsa Villages.[3]

With a view to improving the condition of agriculture, the Idar State had established an Agricultural Department in 1931-32, with a model farm attached to it. The work of this department was divided into (i) agricultural research and experiments, (ii) propaganda, (iii) agricultural education, (iv) boring of wells, and (v) supervision of the public parks and nurseries.

Experiments on various crops were carried out at the model farm: deep ploughing by iron ploughs was demonstrated and progressive cultivators were supplied better seeds by way of experiment. The method of preservation of local manures in manure pits of special dimensions was also explained to cultivators. They were induced to grow more cash crops such as fruits ginger, turmeric, etc., to use iron Rahat to lift water from wells, and to use artificial manures and castor cakes as top-dressing to irrigated crops The farmers were also instructed to observe the rules of sanitation and cleanliness and to give education to their children A separate

1. *Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency*, (1882-83), p. 91.

2. *The Administration Report of Mahikantha for the year*, 1891-92.

3. *Administration Report of the Idar State for the year*, 1904-05, p. 12.

agricultural school was also opened at Himatnagar. These measures helped in improving agricultural conditions in the State.[1]

SEED SUPPLY

Development of agriculture depends to a great extent on agricultural inputs of which seeds form the most important part. Improved seed is defined to be one that gives a minimum higher yield of atleast 10 per cent to 15 per cent over the local seed. An improved seed possesses high-yielding propensity and superiority over the local variety.

Prior to Independence, there were no schemes for multiplication and distribution of improved seeds with the result that agricultural development was retarded. The scheme of evolving and distributing improved seeds was introduced in 1949 in this district. Under this scheme, improved varieties of seeds of various crops are evolved at different research centres and then multiplied in the seed farms. The improved seeds thus multiplied are then distributed amongst the farmers through registered dealers and co-operative societies. The Research Centres of Khedbrahma and Talod are doing important research in cotton and groundnut crops. The district has eight seed-multiplication farms where improved seeds of wheat, *bajri*, maize, groundnut and paddy are grown for distribution. The following is the list of seed-farms in existence in the district.

*Seed Farms**

Sl. No.	Place	Taluka	Area in hectares
1	2	3	4
1	Khedbrahma ..	Khedbrahma	10 (Cotton research)
2	Bhajpura ..	.. Idar	19
3	Hathrol ..	. Himatnagar	17
4	Bhiloda	.. Bhiloda	10
5	Vadrad ..	.. Prantij	20
6	Dhansura ..	.. Modasa	30
7	Jashwantpura	.. Meghraj	53 * Besides Meghraj taluka, the farm serves Vijayanagar and Malpur Mahals.
8	Vatrak .	.. Bayad	11
	Total ..	..	170

* PATEL G. D. (DR.), *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, (1964), p. 106.

1. *Administration Report of the Idar State for the year*, 1931-32, p. 48-51.

It will be seen that the Jashwantpura farm is the largest. An average size of a seed farm is about 10 hectares, having regard to the seed requirements of about 100 villages included in an average block. But in this district, the area varies from 10 to 53 hectares. Thus a majority of the farms are of adequate size.

The main varieties of seeds distributed in this district include 207 *bajri*, Nephad and Kenphad varieties of wheat, Sameri variety of maize, etc. During the First Five Year Plan period, nearly 60 per cent of the area under *bajri* was covered by improved seeds. As regards wheat, more than 1,700 hectares were covered under improved varieties. By the end of the Third Plan period, 1·4 lakh hectares in the district were under improved seeds.

Cotton and groundnut claimed a larger portion of improved seeds, being the principal cash crops of the district during the last six years. The details of area under improved seeds of principal crops are given in the statement that follows.

STATEMENT IV·10

Area Covered under Improved Seeds

(AREA IN HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Name of the Crop	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Cotton ..	84,386	99,130	95,883	95,400	90,682	85,930	551,411
2	Maize ..	13,820	24,394	27,749	41,122	36,584	39,217	185,886
3	Paddy ..	1,866	1,603	1,195	2,214	1,783	3,272	11,933
4	Groundnut .	27,015	32.460	49,179	53,246	51,572	56,563	270,044
5	*Bajri* ..	16,465	18,579	22,426	26,714	27.730	27,205	139,119
6	Wheat ..	19.047	20,134	19,687	23,462	16,852	31,880	131,062
	Total ..	**162,599**	**196,309**	**216,119**	**245,158**	**225,203**	**244,067**	**1,289,455**

Source :
District Agricultural Officer, Himatnagar.

FERTILIZERS

One of the principal requirements for increasing agricultural production is the supply of fertilizers and manures. The need arises because the soil is highly deficient in nitrogen content. The deficiency requires to be made good by supply of plant nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potash in balanced proportions.

Before the commencement of the Five Year Plans, fertilizers were used by only a few progressive cultivators like the Kampawallas and that too for cash crops like cotton only. Mostly ammonium sulphate was used. But after the introduction of the Plans and with extension of facilities and concessions to farmers, fertilizers have come to be used more and more in quantity and variety by the local cultivators.

Ammonium sulphate was the first fertilizer which came to be used in the district. Its use increased appreciably with the commencement of the Second Plan. Ammonium sulphate, nitrate and urea became popular from the year 1959-60 and calcium nitrate from 1962-63. The statement showing the use of fertilizers between 1966-67 and 1970-71 is given below.

STATEMENT IV·11

Fertilizers used

(IN TONNES)

Sl. No.	Year	Nitrogenous fertilizers in terms of Ammonium sulphate	Phosphatic fertilizers in terms of Super phosphate	Diammonium phosphate
1	2	3	4	5
1	1966-67	3,537	1,462	137
2	1967-68	2,460	1,124	491
3	1968-69	4,895	1,014	622
4	1969-70	7,757	1,206	1,073
5	1970-71	10,248	1,163	1,779

Source : District Agricultural Officer, Himatnagar

From the above statistics, it will appear that the use of ammonium sulphate has increased three-fold during the five year period increasing from 3,537 tonnes in 1966-67 to 10,248 tonnes in 1970-71. The use of diammonium phosphate has increased much more, from 137 tonnes to 1,779 tonnes. Phosphatic fertilizers have, however, remained more or less static.

Manures –Organic manures play a very important part in helping plant growth. Cultivators, who are still not conscious of chemical fertilizers, have been using organic manures for a number of years and even now the use of such manures is definitely more than that of chemical fertilizers. In this district, especially in the Adivasi areas mostly organic manures are used. In spite of the progress made in the production of chemical fertilizers, droppings from cattle continue to be the most important source of manure for the soil. Cow-dung is universally recognized as a better

manure for retention of humus in soil and for maintaining its fertility. Its advantages over the others consists in the fact that it can be applied readily by farmers without going through the process of soil analysis. Available manures, if correctly preserved and utilized, would be no small for the district. That this material is often misused as fuel does not detract its high value. There is no doubt that the widespread adoption of 'composting' would greatly enhance the value of this organic manure.

The following figures indicate the increasing use of manures in the district during the last few years.

STATEMENT IV·12

Manures used

(IN TONNES)

Sl. No.	Name of manures	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Rural compost ..	14,979	14,535	22,508	27,272
2	Town compost ..	1,817	1,679	2,094	1,679
3	Green manures ..	1,297	6,868	1,332	5,127

Source : District Agricultural Officer, Himatnagar.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES

Many agencies neutralise the good effects of a favourable crop production. They are (a) natural forces, (b) inroads by birds and animals, (c) pests and (d) diseases. Crop damages caused by natural calamities like floods, storms and severe droughts are occasional. Stray cattle that cause damage can be prevented by proper fencing. But pests and diseases are responsible for considerable loss of agricultural produce which must be controlled by scientific methods to relieve the acute shortage of food in the country.

Parasitic diseases are caused by living agents and are infectious in nature. Non-parasitic diseases are incited by non-living agents and are non-infectious Virus diseases are intermediate in nature, a stepping-stone between the parasitic and non-parasitic diseases.

The pests and diseases most commonly found in the district are as follows.

Pests

Cereals—Kansia, the blister bettle (*Zonabris pustulata*) is about one inch long and half an inch thick, black in colour with yellowish brown

strips across the wings. These insects attack *bajri* crop during kharif season, eat away the pollen and petals of the flowers and retard the growth of grains. The use of 5 per cent benzene hexachloride dust is found to be effective against this pest.

Khapedi—The surface grasshoppers (*Chrotogonus, sp.*) are small hoppers, medium black in colour, with various spots on a rough body surface. They attack crops such as *bajri, jowar*, maize, wheat, etc., during the primary stage of their growth. The attack is sometimes so severe that the entire crop is damaged as a result of which resowing becomes necessary. These pests remain active from July to November. As a preventive measure, cultivators sometimes plough and harrow the field immediately after harvesting to destory the eggs of the pests that are laid in the soil. Benzene hexachloride has proved to be effective against the spread of this pest.

Gabh Marani Eyal—The stem borers (*Chilo Zonellus, S.*) are most commonly found in *jowar* fields and sometimes in wheat, maize and paddy. Caterpillars which are found only inside the affected stems of young plants bore inside the stem and thus cause drying of the central shoots. The pest, being an internal feeder, is very difficult to control. The usual practice followed is to uproot the infected plants along with the pests and destroy them. To save future crops from infestation, cultivators collect the stubbles after harvest and burn them to destroy the hibernating larvae.

Mushi or Molo—The aphids (*Aphis maidis, F.*) is a widespread pest of different species affecting many crops in the district in different seasons. Some species are more common in kharif season and attack *jowar*, cotton, maize and groundnut, while others which are found in rabi season affect vegetables and wheat. This soft-bodied insect sucks the sap of the leaf by mouth. The infection is generally more on the lower surface than on the upper one. The aphids are controlled by spraying resin solution, tobacco decoction or nicotine sulphate or by dusting benzene hexachloride.

Cotton (Kapasni Gulabi Eyal)—The pink boll worm (*Platyedra gossypiella, S.*) feeds inside the cotton bolls and ultimately drops them down. It is more destructive to the Indo-American varieties of cotton than to the indigenous one. As the caterpillars enter the bolls, their entry holes are closed and it becomes difficult to spot out the affected bolls.

Kapasni Tapkawali Eyal—The spotted boll worm (*Earias fabia, S.*) is a widespread pest of cotton found in this district. The caterpillars mainly damage the shoots and bolls of cotton and stain the lint with the result that bolls fall off prematurely. The pest being an internal feeder is difficult to control However, preventive measures such as the removal of cotton stalks after harvest, destruction of early fallen bolls with the larvae inside

and heat treatment for cotton seed are usually taken for the control of spotted boll worms.

Pulses—Popta Kotarnar Eyal—The gram pod borer (*Heliothis obsoleta F.*) feeds inside the pod. It is more destructive to gram.

White Grubs—White grub is a severe pest of groundnut. It lays oval shaped eggs in the soil from which dirty white-yellowish worms come out having reddish almond shaped head. They cut the main root of groundnut. This pest causes damage to the crops of *bajri*, wheat, *jowar* and sugar-cane. To control this pest, 65 per cent Lindane dust should be drilled in soil at the rate of 60 kg. per acre.

Crop Diseases

Cereals—Bajrino angario (*smut* of *bajri*) is caused by fungus. This disease appears in the crop at the time when the earheads are formed. The grains become dark greenish in colour and large in size from which black fungus comes out. To cure the disease, the affected earheads should be treated with 2 per cent mercurial compound.

A similar disease known as *bajrino ergot* is also found sometimes in *bajri*.

Groundnut—Pod sucking bug (*aphanus sordidus, F.*)—The bug sucks the juice from the immature pods of groundnut and causes damage to the crop. It can be controlled by dusting 5 per cent benzene hexachloride.

Katra of Groundnut—Hairy caterpillars, (*amsacta sp.*)—Katra is a very common disease in the district and appears almost every year, damaging several crops like *bajri*, pulses and millets. It feeds on leaves and destroys the crop in the early stages. Dusting with 5 per cent benzene hexachloride proves beneficial.

Tikka or Leaf Spot Disease in Groundnut— Tikka disease is one of the major leaf spot diseases in the district and undoubtedly the most destructive for groundnut. The disease usually appears before or at the time of flowering.

As parts of the plant above the soil are attacked by the fungus, the disease appears first on the lower leaves as dark spots. Due to excessive spotting on the leaves, there is general weakening of the foliage resulting in defoliation. The shedding of the leaves is the most characteristic feature of the disease When the young plants are attacked they produce many immature nuts which are shrivelled and found loose in shell resulting in loss of yield.

The primary infection of the disease is known to spread through spores lying in the soil. The spots are reported to remain viable in soil for a long time and attack the succeeding crop as the condition becomes favourable.

Seed disinfection is reported to help check the disease particularly at places where the intensity of the disease is high during the preceding year.

Dry Root-rot in Groundnut--The disease usually prevails in all talukas of the district. In the early stage of its infection, the stems lose their colour, the leaves and branches turn brown and black from top to bottom and the plant dries up.

Seed treatment with organo-mercurial compound or non-mercurial compound is effective to control the spread of the disease.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the two inseparable units of development for agricultural production. In the Five Year Plans, development of animal husbandry is, therefore, envisaged as an integral part of a sound system of diversifying agriculture.

The Animal Husbandry Department which looks after developmental activities in animal husbandry is divided into two sections, *viz*., (1) veterinary section and (2) animal husbandry section. The veterinary section is concerned with treatment of sick animals and control of cattle diseases. The animal husbandry section is concerned with the development of cattle, poultry breeding, sheep breeding and other allied schemes.

Before the present district was constituted in 1948, there were four veterinary dispensaries, one each in Dhansura, Prantij, Himatnagar and Idar. In pursuance of the Government policy to open one dispensary in each taluka, veterinary dispensaries were subsequently opened in the remaining talukas and mahals. Branch veterinary dispensaries were also established. Most of the new dispensaries were established during the Second Plan period.

Cattle Development—It is difficult to think of agricultural improvement without cattle development. The cattle provides the required motive power for various agricultural operations including ploughing, harrowing, sowing, irrigation, etc., besides providing the farm-yard manure and milk. Moreover, the bullocks play an important role as a draught power for carrying carts which still constitute a chief means of rural transport. Development of cattle, both in regard to their milk-yield and draught capacity is, therefore, very necessary.

The important schemes of cattle development are described below :

1. *The Gaushala Development Scheme*—Under the scheme, one *gaushala* was established at Idar in 1962-63. Another one was opened at Khedbrahma at the end of the Third Plan period. The scheme aims to improve the *gaushala* cattle by scientific breeding, feeding and management.

2. *The Key-village Scheme*—Under this scheme, six key-village units were functioning in the district during 1970-71. Special attention is given to breeding and feeding of the cattle and the control of cattle diseases. Before the scheme is introduced in a village, a stockman makes a survey of the livestock population, its production and marketing.

3. *Artificial Insemination*—Under this scheme, one Artificial Insemination Centre was opened at Himatnagar in 1963-64. On an average, 800 inseminations are done every year. Besides the main centre, three Artificial Insemination Sub-Centres are also functioning at Prantij, Modasa and Bayad.

Dairy Farming—At present, the district has no public dairy. However, a scheme for construction of a dairy at Himatnagar at a cost of Rs. 1·25 crores is under way. The dairy which will be known as the 'Sabar Dairy' is likely to go into production in 1972-73.

Sheep Breeding—Sheep occupy an important place among the livestock population. Their number was 30,156 in 1956 but decreased to 14,435 in 1961. However, it has gradually increased thereafter and was reported to be 23,414 in 1966. There is need for opening a sheep breeding farm in the district.

Poultry Farming—Poultry keeping can be usefully practised on agricultural farms as a subsidiary occupation. However, until recently no systematic attempts were made for breeding and keeping of poultry in this district. It was only in 1962 that the first Government Poultry Demonstration-*cum*-Extention Centre was established in the district at Himatnagar. Besides this, there are two private poultry farms. Government has advanced liberal loans to poultry keepers for poultry development. The poultry population in 1966 was 133,740 as against 62,024 in 1951.

Fodder Development Scheme—Fodder development programme aims to encourage farmers to take-up improved fodder development practices such as improvement of grass land use of seeds and fertilizers and cultivation of high yielding varieties of fodder. Under this scheme, three old and two new grass land plots were taken up for development during the year 1970-71.

Area Under Fodder Crops—Because of the limited area available for cultivation, crops are grown mainly for grain purposes and fodder is grown only as a by-product. Area under fodder occupied 18,390 hectares in 1968-69. Lucern, field vetch and *jowar* constitute the main fodder crops grown in the district.

Cattle Population—The cattle population in the district is a little more than its human population (9·18 lakhs) according to the 1961 Census. The livestock population of the district was found to be distributed as under in 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966.

STATEMENT IV·13

Livestock 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966

Categories of livestock 1		1951* 2	1956* 3	1961* 4	1966† 5
Total livestock	..	**832,402**	**990,638**	**920,205**	**938,159**
(a) Bullocks and Cows	..	409,301	440,910	426,888	407,865
1. Males over 3 years	..	184,525	203,287	214,910	213,575
2. Females over 3 years	..	119,912	114,905	113,099	103,852
(in milk)	..	(56,838)	(41,099)	(35,082)	(102,746)
3. Young stock	..	104,864	122,718	98,879	90,438
(b) Buffaloes ..	..	194,163	225,854	240,510	255,166
1. Males over 3 years	..	1,271	869	1,223	818
2. Females over 3 years	..	118,940	124,063	137,652	142,653
(in milk)	..	(61,838)	(64,880)	(64,958)	(141,244)
3. Young stock	..	73,952	100,922	101,635	111,695
(c) Sheep ..	..	13,550	30,156	14,435	23,414
(d) Goats ..	..	199,360	274,359	219,800	236,832
(e) Horses and Ponies	..	4,308	6,100	4,945	1,467
(f) Mules ..	..	157	30	56	23
(g) Donkeys ..	..	8,812	9,635	10,284	9,651
(h) Camels ..	..	2,543	3,594	3,287	3,730
(i) Pigs	..	508	..	..	11
Poultry ..	..	*62,024*	*86,575*	*134,189*	*133,740*
1. Fowls ..	..	61,971	86,556	133,536	133,580
2. Ducks .	..	53	8	198	22
3. Others .	..	..	11	455	138

Source :

* *District Census Handbook* 1961, Sabarkantha, pp. 19 and 161.

† *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Vol. IX, No. 1, Ahmedabad, (1969), pp. 154-157.

The outstanding fact about the livestock in the district is that the number of buffaloes is increasing, while that of the cows is falling. Buffaloes are perhaps preferred to cows because of their larger milk-yield. As the statement indicates the total livestock population has increased from 832,402 in 1951 to 938,159 in 1966 registering an overall increase of 12·71 per cent

in 15 years. This increase is noticed in most of the categories of livestock. Bullocks have increased by 15·74 per cent, buffaloes by 31·42 per cent, sheep by 72·80 per cent, goats by 18·80 per cent, donkeys by 13·38 per cent and camels by 46·68 per cent during this period of 15 years. This increase may be attributed to the sound veterinary facilities available in the district. However, as seen earlier, cows have gone down from 119,912 in 1951 to 103,852 in 1966. Horses and ponies have decreased from 4,308 to 1,467, mules from 157 to 23 and pigs from 508 to only 11 during the same period. Their use has proved less economical in the altered circumstances

ANIMAL DISEASES

The prevalence of cattle diseases is one of the most serious obstacles to the improvement of cattle. Animals suffer from a number of diseases such as Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Foot and Mouth disease, Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia, etc. Of these, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia is the most destructive disease of cloven-footed animals, such as cows, bullocks and buffaloes. The disease is usually spread by contaminated feed and water and occurs generally in low-lying areas periodically inundated by rain water. Foot and mounth disease is a highly communicable disease affecting cloven-footed animals and is characterised by fever, formation of vesicles and blisters in mouth, udder and on the skin. The disease spreads very commonly by direct contact or indirectly, through infected water, manure, hay and pastures.

Free vaccinations given by the Department control the diseases to a large extent. Generally every year, the prophylactic vaccinations are carried out at places where the above diseases are endemic. In 1970-71, 1,072 out-breaks of different contagious diseases were recorded, which claimed a toll of 281 lives as detailed below.

STATEMENT IV·14

Animal Diseases Recorded, 1970-71

Name of the disease	Cattle		Buffaloes		Goats		Total	
	Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haemorrhagic Septicaemia ..	31	16	320	217	..	..	351	233
Foot and Mouth disease ..	419	..	225	.	..	..	644	..
Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	62	47	62	47
Rinderpest	.	..	2	1	..	..	2	1
Bovine Surra	..	..	13	..	..	..	13	..
Total	450	16	560	218	62	47	1,072	281

Source :
District Animal Husbandry Officer, Himatnagar.

The above statement shows that foot and mouth disease, though most widespread, is not fatal. On the other hand, the haemorrhagic septicaemia and the pleuro pneumonia have proved to be the most fatal disease. The incidence of other diseases is negligible.

FISHERIES

Meat, eggs, fish, etc., form food items of many in this district. Fish is considered one of the best and the cheapest sources of protein-rich supplementary food and hence the importance of the fisheries.

Development of fisheries started in the district only during the Second Five Year Plan period. During the pre-Independence days, activities by the Government in this field were confined to the issue of fishing licences through the Revenue Department. Some preliminary work of survey of water sheets was taken up by the then Government of Bombay. After the formation of the Gujarat State, the fisheries development work got an impetus. An experimental fish breeding unit was established at Prantij in the year 1962 for breeding Indian major carps by the administration of pituitary hormone. As this experiment gave encouraging results, a permanent fish breeding centre and fish-seed farm was established at Prantij during 1964. It was subsequently expanded and a field laboratory was also established in 1965. This fish farm is at present working very successfully producing 25 to 30 lakhs of fish-seeds (young fishes) annually and earning a revenue of Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 90,000 per annum. Alongwith good local varieties of fishes, the breeding of other varieties like *common carp* and *chinese grass carp* is also undertaken successfully in this fish-seed farm

Lately, the Department of Fisheries has started extension of piscicultural activities in the district So far, about 2,000 hectares of water sheets have been surveyed to decide their suitability for rearing fish. The Bokh reservoir at Prantij has been stocked with quick-growing Indian and foreign varieties of fishes. The fishing of this reservoir as well as the Patera reservoir in Khedbrahma is being managed by the Department of Fisheries. Many village Panchayats are being persuaded to take up fish culture in their tanks. The village Panchayats of Vartol and Semalia in Khedbrahma taluka and the Malpur Panchayat have shown interest in this scheme. The Vartol village Panchayat has already started rearing fish.

During the Second Five Year Plan, two Fishermen Co-operative Societies were established in the district to organise the development work on a co-operative basis. The aim of these societies is to improve the fishing implements by introducing nylon nets, fishing boats, and supplying other requisites and marketing fish produce of the members.

The Fisheries Department has started a demonstration scheme in the district since 1966. The Semalia village tank of Khedbrahma taluka was selected as the first demonstration pond to train the local population. There is a plan to extend such demonstration programmes to other talukas also and suitable tanks are being selected. Besides, there is a provision for providing loans and subsidies to the local bodies like village Panchayats, municipalities, etc., to attract them to take up fish culture. The loans and subsidies are granted for the improvement of the tanks and to make them suitable for fish culture. The fishermen of the district are supplied with modern fishing gears at subsidised rates.

The Fisheries Laboratory established at Prantij in 1965 alongwith the fish seed-farm is undertaking research and investigations on matters of practical importance to fish culture. A reference museum exhibiting important species of fishes, fish enemies, aquatic organisms, etc., has been established at Prantij. The fish farm at Prantij is undertaking studies on food, growth and breeding of exotic varieties of fishes.

FORESTS

Forests have a considerable influence on the economy and development of the district. They supply timber, fuel, fodder and other forest products. They reduce soil erosion and thereby increase fertility of the soil. Besides, forests have a moderating influence against floods. They provide an industrial base to certain industries. Lastly, they provide allied occupations to the tribal people living in the forests areas.

As far as this district is concerned, it has a very small area under good forests. The forests are generally confined to the hills where a variety of species occurs changing with the elevation. The total area under forests is 636·05 sq. kms., of which 514·58 sq. kms, are reserved forests and the rest are unclassed forests. It may be noted that there are no protected forests in the district. The entire forest area constitutes nearly 19 per cent of the total area of the district. Except in the Vijaynagar range and in some detached blocks in Raigadh and Narayanpur villages, most of the trees are overmatured, hollow, malformed and not quite fit even as fire wood.[1]

Before Independence, the forests in this district were worked on an unscientific manner resulting in over-exploitation, mal-formation and in some cases depletion. As the former rulers were the sole owners of these forests, revenue considerations alone weighed in the forest management. As a result, most of these forests were overworked in the past under the simple and crude formula of cutting trees entirely for revenue purposes. Though

1. JADHAV S. P., *Working Schemes of the Sabarkantha Forests*, (1959).

the native States were under the general control of the Political Agency, no attempts were made either to classify the forest areas (except those in the Baroda State) or to prepare schemes or plans for working and development of forests. In most of the areas even surveys were not undertaken. The forests were, therefore, left in utterly ruined condition. The people enjoyed liberal privileges of cutting the trees as they liked to the detriment of the forest growth. Wanton cutting of trees, heavy grazing and regular fires left no scope for the natural regeneration to come up. This state of affairs was found in Idar and other petty States. The Vijaynagar State did not allow the situation to aggravate further but allowed the ryots to exploit teak and khair trees under a selection method after payment of custom duty. This practice resulted in exploitation of the best and marketable trees from the forests. Most of the forests of Vadali, Raigadh and Bhiloda ranges were left in a deplorable state. In short, the disastrous effects of ill-conceived forest policy followed by the former States have ruined the forests which will be very difficult to retrieve.[1]

After Independence, settlement and demarcation of forest areas was undertaken by the Forest Settlement Officer. Cultural operations such as improvement fellings, thinnings, cleanings, etc., were carried out to effect improvement in the growing stock of trees. Plantations were also attempted to restock the area and to arrest further deterioration of forest wealth. The forest areas were reorganised and divided into ranges, rounds and beats.

Important forest products found in this district are bamboos, *mahuda* flowers, *doli*, *timru* leaves, *awal* bark, *rayan* fruits, *sitafal*, *kadaya* and other gums. These products supply the principal requirement of the people. The timber is used for building and wood for preparing agricultural implements. Firewood is used in fuel and grass and leaves as cattle feed. Baskets and mats, etc., are prepared from bamboos. The *mahuda* flowers are eaten by local population. Oil is also extracted from *mahuda* and *doli* for preparing crude soap, locally. *Timru* leaves are used in preparing *bidi* while gum finds its way in icecream, cosmetics, adhesives, etc. However, there are cases of illicit cutting and unauthorised grazing, which cause considerable damage to the forest and its products.

The forest coupes are auctioned by inviting tenders. A total income of Rs 6·60 lakhs was earned from the forest, of which 57 per cent was from timber and 38·5 per cent from minerals and other forest products.

SCHEMES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS

As the soil of the district is poor in contents, schemes for planting fast-growing species and afforestation on uncultivable areas assume greater

1. JADHAV S. P., *Working Schemes of the Sabarkantha Forests*, (1959).

importance in order to restock the forests and enrich the soil. However, no schemes for forest development were undertaken till the introduction of the Second Five Year Plan. In 1961-62, three schemes, namely, (i) scheme for afforestation on uncultivated areas and soil and moisture conservation (ii) scheme for economic plantation and (iii) scheme for fast growing trees were introduced in the district. The schemes for appointment of Jodi-guards and staff for Jagiri areas were introduced in 1966-67 and 1968-69 respectively.

As a result of implementation of these schemes, 242 hectares of land were afforested and 456 hectares were covered under economic plantation between 1956 and 1970. A total expenditure of about Rs. 2·57 lakhs was incurred under these schemes till 1969-70 as detailed below.

STATEMENT IV·15

Expenditure incurred under Various Forest Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Second Plan period (1956-1961)	Third Plan period (1961-1966)	(1969-70)
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Scheme for afforestation in uncultivated areas and soil and moisture conservation	..	61,540	26,197.00
2	Scheme for economic plantation..	625	52,589	23,116.33
3	Scheme for fast growing species..	18,269	2,825	..
4	Scheme for appointment of Jodi-guards	..	12,155	4,007.32
5	Scheme for Jagiri areas of Sabar-kantha district	..	..	31,895.90
6	Scheme for Nature conservancy ..	..	18,028	6,158.35
	Total	**18,794**	**1,47,137**	**91,374.90**

Source :

Conservator of Forests, Baroda Circle, Baroda.

With the object of estimating the forest resources existing in the State, a scheme on 'forest resources' was initiated by the Government in the year 1962-63. Under the scheme, a survey team was set up to survey the forests of the State, collect statistics regarding the present stock of trees

in various classes, determine the extent of natural regeneration and analyse and classify soils. The team carried out the survey work in the forests of this district in the year 1970 and found that there is predominance of teak, *sadad, dhavda, timru, modad, khakhar* and *khair* trees. In addition soft wood species like *sawar, modad* and *gugal* are also found in good quantity. Moreover, there are species like *khair, timru, kadaya, asitra, mahudu, bor, amala* which yield important minor forest produce.

The forests in this district are looked after by the Divisional Forest Officer with his headquarter at Himatnagar. He is under the Conservator of Forests, Baroda Circle, Baroda. There is no Sub-Divisional Forest Office. However, there are 9 Range Forest Officers, who are working under the Divisional Forest Officer. Each of these 9 Ranges is further sub-divided into rounds and beats. There are 29 Round Officers and 129 Beat Guards in this district.

There are no forest research centres in the district.

STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

Cultivators are sometimes not able to make permanent improvements on their lands due to paucity of finance. To help them, the State of Idar had established an Agricultural Bank in 1905-06. The Bank advanced loans to cultivators whenever required by them. The object in view in founding the institution was to make necessary loans available to bona-fide cultivators at a lesser rate of interest than what was usually charged from them by the money lenders. The rate at first decided upon was seven and a half per cent but was thereafter reduced to 6 per cent per annum. The bank was managed by the Revenue Officer and was financed by the State.

Apart from this, the State also gives *tagavi* advances to poor cultivators for purchasing seeds, implements, bullocks, etc., or for constructing irrigation wells and improving their lands. This type of assistance was continued till the merger of the State in the Indian Union, after Independence.

Since the formation of the State of Gujarat, finance to agriculture is mainly provided through the agency of the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank. The bank has branches in all taluka headquarters of the district.

The branches at Himatnagar, Idar, Modasa, Prantij, Bayad and Malpur were opened in 1960. During the year 1961 one more branch was opened at Bhiloda. The Khedbrahma branch was opened during the year 1962. Meghraj and Vijaynagar were provided with a branch during the year 1963.

The following statement gives details of the finance made available to cultivators by the above branches.

STATEMENT IV·16

Agricultural Finance Advanced to Cultivators during the Year 1970-71

Purpose 1	Amount in Rs. 2	Percentage 3
Sinking of new wells and repairs to old wells ..	6,990,998	33.7
Oil engines, electric motors, pumping sets, etc. ..	11,941,887	57.6
Purchase of tractors	534,071	2.6
Other purposes	1,255,100	6.1
Total	**20,722,116**	**100.0**

Source :
The Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad.

The statement shows that more than 91 per cent of the advances made by the Bank were utilised for increasing irrigational facilities, *i. e.*, purchase of oil-engines, electric motors, pumping sets, etc., and construction of new wells or repairs of old ones.

The branchwise advances during the year 1970-71 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IV·17

Branchwise Advances, 1970-71

Branch	Advance in Rs.
Himatnagar	4,870,770
Prantij	1,741,371
Idar	2,931,450
Modasa	3,744,950
Malpur	636,750
Bayad	2,911,791
Bhiloda	1,892,250
Khedbrahma	1,123,150
Vijaynagar	476,070
Meghraj	485,555
Total	**20,722,116**

Source :
The Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad.

It would be seen that the largest advances were made by the Himatnagar branch, followed by Modasa, Idar, Bayad, etc., which are progressive in agriculture.

Under the impact of the nationalisation of the major Indian Joint Stock Banks in 1969, the financing pattern by the commercial banks has changed considerably. They have since started making large advances to cultivators. The advance made by these banks to the agricultural sector was nil in 1967, but was reported to be Rs. 43·79 lakhs in 1969 which is the highest among the advances to different sectors of the economy, and forms about 36 per cent of the total advances.

The Small Farmers Development Agency—The availablity of agricultural finance to small farmers was not adequate in the past. This problem was under consideration of the Government of India and the Planning Commission. The All India Rural Credit Survey Committee had also discussed this problem in its report. The Committee had suggested that experimental units should be opened with limited area of operation. To implement this suggestion, the Government of India has constituted the Small Farmers Development Agency in this district. The Agency has the District Development Officer as Chairman and the Project Officer as Member Secretary besides 11 other members. The programme is being implemented through the existing Government and Panchayat machinery. This project for which Rs. 1·60 crores have been alloted is expected to cover 50 000 farmers in the district.

FAMINES

In any district of Gujarat the success of agriculture depends primarily on the monsoon rains. An ideal year would be one in which there are no droughts or floods Successful crop production depends not only on the total seasonal rainfall but also on the proper distribution of precipitation in time and space.

The abnormalities or vagaries of the monsoon may either cause floods by excessive rains or droughts by scanty rains Floods were few but famines were many.

As the former *Gazetteer*[1] recorded. "Except by tradition little or nothing is known of past famines. Those best remembered are the great famines of 1791 and 1813, and the scarcities of 1825 and 1834. Of these, the usual tales are told, of great distress of numbers perishing for want of food, and children exchanged for grain or abandoned."

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), pp. 371-372.

"Though serious loss is sometimes caused by heavy rain, the Mahi Kantha is not liable to floods. Of late years, in 1868 and again in September 1875, on account of heavy rain in Meywar, the Sabarmati, the Sarasvati, and the Hathmati rose above their greatest known heights, and at several places on their banks did much damage, carrying away portions of villages and covering good arable ground with a thick bed of barren sand."

The turn of the century saw series of bad years. "The whole area suffered from the great famine of 1899-1900. Relief measures were commenced in December, 1899 and were closed in November, 1900. The highest daily average number in relief works was 30,000 in July 1900, and those receiving gratuitous relief numbered 6,000. The total amount spent during the year for famine relief amounted to Rs. 476,967. There was scarcity in 1900-1901 and a severe famine in 1901-02. The daily average number of relief workers was over 13,000 in June, 1902. The Idar State borrowed famine loans of Rs. 350,000 from Government of India. The whole area covered by Mahi Kantha agency suffered from a fodder famine in 1911-12. Tagavi was advanced to cultivators to sink new wells, to grow fodder as also to purchase the fodder imported in large quantities. Inspite of this, 7·6 per cent of cattle died in 1911-12. There being no human distress, no relief works had to be opened. The Idar State contracted famine loans of Rs. 168,000 from Government. There was scarcity of fodder again during the year 1915-16, but the effects were not greatly felt, owing to the availability of good grass land in the State of Polo and the Talukas of Hapa, Dedhrota, etc. where cattle were sent for grazing. The monsoon of 1918 was not quite satisfactory There was no rain after August. The out-turn of monsoon crop varied from 1 to 6 annas in the rupee. Owing to scarcity of fodder, arrangements for the supply of Government grass were made. In the early stage of scarcity export of grass from the Agency was prohibited Eleven fair price shops were opened.[1]

The monsoon of 1926 brought an inadequate rainfall Food-grain prices rose abnormally. Scarcity of drinking water and fodder was acute. A large number of cattle died for want of fodder. Relief measures by private efforts were organised on a limited scale.

The monsoon of 1927 brought a heavy downpour in July, when 19 inches of rainfall was recorded in two days.[2] Cattle died in hundreds and houses collapsed in thousands. Standing crops were destroyed and seeds sown were washed away. Famine Relief Committees were organised by private efforts at Modasa and Idar. Food-grains and clothing were distributed free to some villages. Cultivators were provided with loans and seeds were supplied at subsidised rates.

1. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V-B, (1926), p. 2.

2. GANDHI BHOGILAL AND GANDHI RAMANLAL, *Purusharthni Pratima* (1959), p. 162, (In Gujarati).

Insufficient rainfall in 1939 resulted in scarcity of food and fodder. Both were supplied at subsidised rates by the Flood Relief Committees. The history of 1927 was repeated in 1941 at Modasa when 15 inches of rainfall was recorded in 12 hours. Standing crops were washed away. Efforts of social workers, private trusts and the Gujarat Prantiya Congress Committee helped to alleviate the grave situation. Fair price shops were opened to sell food and cloth in the affected areas Relief measures were organised by local bodies.

The year 1947-48, proved a lean year. The year that followed was worse. Three years later in 1951-52, famine conditions were experienced in 150 villages of the Khedbrahma taluka, 86 villages of the Bhiloda taluka and 10 villages of the Meghraj taluka.

Scarcity conditions were declared in 1952-53, 1957-58, 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1969-70 all of which were lean years with uneven or scanty rainfall. Conditions were more severe during 1966-67 and 1969-70, when Government spent Rs 210 lakhs and Rs 648 lakhs respectively for relief measures. The number of villages affected by scarcity was 318 in 1966-67 and 415 in 1969-70. The scarcity of 1965-66 affected the largest number of villages (437) while, that of 1969-70 involved the largest amount of Government expenditure (Rs. 648 lakhs), though the number of villages affected was less, *i. e.*, 415

Scarcity Areas

In 1958-59, the Government of Bombay appointed a Fact Finding Committee to collect data regarding famine and scarcity conditions in the State and to recommend future preventive and ameliorative measures in this connection The committee reported that on basis of the previous history of scarcity available for 10 years, the following areas in this district were affected by scarcity

Name of Taluka	*Circle*
Meghraj	Isari
Bhiloda	Shamalaji. Takatuka. Kheradi
Khedbrahma	Laxmipura, Poshina, Agiya. Khedbrahma

Himatnagar Idar. Malpur. Prantij. Bayad and Modasa are considered comparatively safe areas, the last two being the safest. Both these talukas are flat areas with medium sandy-loam soil.

The committee was of the opinion that though a few scattered villages have been affected in certain talukas during the last 10 years, the incidence is not high and, therefore, no part of this district need to be regarded as a scarcity area

ANNEXURE I

List of Minor Irrigation Works Functioning in the District

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Irrigation potential in hectares	Estimated cost in Rs.
	Himatnagar		
1	Tank at Dhundhar	10	7,040
2	Tank at Rupal	11	3,993
3	Tank at Manorpur	105	3,51,000
	Modasa		
4	Tank at Bherunda	40	22,627
5	Tank at Khalikpur	16	17,059
	Prantij		
6	Timba tank at Harsol	243	
	Bhiloda		
7	Tank at Kheradi	57	16,095
8	Tank at Ch[illegible]rimala	26	6,718
9	Tank at Nandoj	24	29,086
10	Tank at Chitaria	18	13,515
11	Tank at Napda	77	23,310
12	Tank at Laxmanpur	31	17,700
	Idar		
13	Tank at Ruvadh	42	11,405
14	Tank at Nadri	32	16,147
15	Tank at Poshina	28	33,175
16	Tank at Vasai	16	40,808
17	Lakhera tank at Vadali	49	21,326
18	Samleshwar tank at Vadali	34	766
19	Vadu tank at Deshottar	18	14,300
20	Mag. Chhota tank at Mahor	19	10,583
21	Samera tank at Bhavangadh	73	59,976
	Malpur		
22	Tank at Rambhoda	24	7,628
23	Tank at Katkuva	24	16,451

ANNEXURE I—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme				Irrigation potential in hectares	Estimated cost in Rs.
	Meghraj					
24	Tank at Shangal	..	..	..	24	18,176
25	Tank at Rayawada	..	..	..	15	12,318
26	Tank at Bhunjari	..	..	..	17	14,657
27	Tank at Ramgadhi	..	..	..	40	48,502
	Khedbrahma					
28	Tank at Agiya	..	..	..	182	..
29	Tank at Matoda	..	..	..	142	..
30	Tank at Unchi Dhanal..		..	..	121	..
31	Tank at Gadhada Shamlaji		..	..	87	..
32	Tank at Vartol	..	..	..	70	..
33	Tank at Vinchhi	..	..	..	22	..
34	Tank at Gota	..	..	..	..	..
35	Tank at Laxmipura	..	..	..	..	..
36	Tank at Sitol	..	..	..	36	15,889
37	Tank at Koland	..	..	..	40	35,009
38	Tank at Salera	..	..	..	28	37,446
39	Tank at Chikhala	..	..	..	36	41,682
40	Tank at Nava Mota	..	..	..	14	18,120
41	Tank at Sembalia	..	..	..	71	20,900
42	Tank at Gundol	..	..	..	20	21,457
43	Tank at Kanthapura	..	..	..	40	97,000
44	Tank at Dahediya	..	..	..	36	74,000

Source :
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Himatnagar.

ANNEXURE II

Check Dams, Talukawise

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Estimated cost in Rs.	Remarks
1	2	3	4
	Malpur Mahal		
1	Ubharan	27,366	These check dams are constructed to provide indirect benefit to the wells within one mile radius from the sill of check dam by raising their water levels.
2	Manawada	45,959	
3	Satarda	27,997	
4	Jitpur	20,325	
5	Aniyor	54,965	
6	Parsoda	92,608	
	Bayad Taluka		
7	Odha	29,513	
8	Totu	17,624	
9	Vasna Mota	19,777	
10	Bilwania	12,653	
11	Rugnathpur	73,813	
12	Vatrakgadh	37,085	
13	Vasani	30,286	
14	Hemaliyal	32,834	
15	Karanpur	30,170	
16	Gopalpura	46,040	
17	Vatrak	44,610	
18	Bordi	24,090	
19	Vatrakgadh-Kampa	40,908	
20	Lank	62,870	
21	Motipura-Kampa	36,987	
22	Ambaliara	53,288	
	Khedbrahma Taluka		
23	Pipolseir	44,381	
24	Lambadiya	19,522	
	Prantij Taluka		
25	Ghadi	60,676	
	Modasa Taluka		
26	Bhensawada	26,759	
27	Shinavad	30,626	
28	Munshiwada	19,379	

Source : Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Himatnagar.

ANNEXURE III

Area of Principal Crops Irrigated by Taluka, 1968-69

(AREA IN HECTARES)

Crops	Bayad	Bhiloda	Himatnagar	Idar	Khedbrahma	Modasa	Malpur	Meghraj	Prantij	Vijaynagar	District Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rice	..	23	23	13	7	7	..	..	576	..	649
Wheat	1,534	3,249	3,347	6,962	2,368	3,056	698	1,026	3,829	1,154	27,223
Jowar	10	7	86	36	78	72	..	.	41	..	332
Bajri	526	149	519	53	3	687	70	9	752	..	2,768
Barley	..	76	50	387	20	9	..	4	..	164	700
Maize	236	1,311	1,146	2,170	423	802	308	26	111	14	6,649
Common millets ..	2	69	183	398	16	95	..	12	65	1	841
Gram	..	374	34	32	123	2	4	2	345	181	1,097
Mag	1	116	14	370	259	7	1	3	13	109	893
Sugar-cane ..	8	238	13	225	400	5	..	4	2	86	981
Chillies	55	87	30	147	13	65	46	117	66	5	631
Miscellaneous food crops	92	149	120	978	30	58	47	63	563	29	2,119
Total food crops ..	*2,464*	*5,848*	*5,569*	*11,771*	*3,740*	*4,865*	*1,174*	*1,266*	*6,353*	*1,733*	*44,783*
Cotton	822	1,129	3,699	7,439	1,467	1,688	96	..	367	112	16,819
Groundnut ..	.	80	171	38	2	82	..	..	29	..	402
Fodder crops ..	198	219	50	498	104	51	14	17	87	10	1,248
Miscellaneous non-food crops ..	2	50	4	65	6	16	..	11	8	3	165
Total non-food crops	*1,022*	*1,478*	*3,924*	*8,040*	*1,579*	*1,837*	*110*	*28*	*491*	*125*	*18,634*
Total area under irrigated crops ..	**8,486**	**7,326**	**9,493**	**19,811**	**5,319**	**6,702**	**1,284**	**1,294**	**6,844**	**1,858**	**63,417**

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

ANNEXURE IV

Area Under Principal Crops by Taluka, 1968-69

(AREA IN HECTARES)

Sl. No. 1	Crops 2	Bayad 3	Bhiloda 4	Himmat-nagar 5	Idar 6	Khed-brahma 7	Modasa 8	Malpur 9	Meghraj 10	Prantij 11	Vijay-nagar 12	District Total 13
1	Rice	2,341	3,026	1,317	1,610	1,324	1,815	1,921	5,027	2,484	1,814	22,679
2	Wheat	1,534	5,468	3,427	6,362	2,368	3,056	698	1,026	4,345	1,154	28,038
3	Barley	..	127	50	387	20	9	..	9	..	160	762
4	*Jowar*	352	1,809	3,578	6,740	2,379	1,810	..	3,751	2,787	102	20,288
5	*Bajri*	8,980	1,641	7,555	6,344	55	9,599	3,984	3,929	17,774	7	59,868
6	Maize	9,361	12,415	3,459	11,338	13,870	10,065	1,462	9,600	1,484	6,404	82,458
7	Ragi	123	15	..	.	1	6	250	185	1	3	584
8	*Kodra*	894	,86	425	1,163	756	1,466	1,129	1,938	775	88	9,390
9	Little millets	.	282	54	7	51		..	43	.	155	592
10	Common millets	2	70	183	398	16	90	..	12	65	1	843
11	*Banti*	82	356	391	786	736	85	35	100	121	25	2,712
12	Other cereals	8	128	65	170	32	1	4	345		237	990
13	*Total cereals*	*25,628*	*24,117*	*20,504*	*35,905*	*21,608*	*28,008*	*12,483*	*22,965*	*29,836*	*10,150*	*229,204*
14	Gram	3	867	59	112	265	17	21	129	423	384	2,280
15	*Mag*	206	338	99	312	308	150	23	52	244	120	2,055
16	*Tur*	480	398	318	458	183	903	242	772	1,589	5	5,348
17	Black gram	42	598	13	481	245	24	24	95	74	330	1,924
18	*Math*	486	24	421	754	..	396	57	5	1,322	..	3,465
19	Chavli	7	7	19	110	98	9	4	5	26	4	289

ANNEXURE IV—*concld.*

(AREA IN HECTARES)

Sl. No. 1	Crops 2	Bayad 3	Bhiloda 4	Himat-nagar 5	Idar 6	Khed-brahma 7	Modasa 8	Malpur 9	Meghraj 10	Prantij 11	Vijay-nagar 12	District Total 13
20	Other pulses	1	1	1	18	..	1	11	10	1	1	45
21	*Total pulses*	*1,225*	*2,233*	*933*	*2 448*	*1,097*	*1.500*	*382*	*1,068*	*3,679*	*844*	*15,406*
22	*Total food grains*	*24,853*	*25,350*	*21,434*	*38,353*	*22,705*	*29.508*	*12.855*	*24,033*	*33.515*	*10,994*	*244,610*
23	Sugar-cane	6	238	13	225	400	5	.	4	2	86	981
24	*Total condiments and spices*	*122*	*188*	*60*	*978*	*34*	*80*	*100*	*146*	*299*	*14*	*2,021*
25	*Total fruits and vegetables*	*110*	*53*	*337*	*375*	*21*	*504*		*38*	*1,400*	*27*	*2,865*
26	*Total food crops*	*25,093*	*26,829*	*21 944*	*39,931*	*23,160*	*30,097*	*12,965*	*24,221*	*35,216*	*11,121*	*250,477*
27	Groundnut	16,667	4,612	16,451	16,340	1,368	18,446	5,951	2,827	24,709	230	107,649
28	Sesamum	1 261	935	440	1,786	2.260	1.284	777	2,322	702	149	11,916
29	Rape and mustard	..	109	4	79	2	2	..	11	6	3	216
30	Castor	689	247	587	1,147	229	1,078	102	99	1,176	25	5,381
31	*Total oil-seeds*	*18,617*	*5,933*	*17,500*	*19,352*	*3,859*	*20,810*	*6,830*	*5.259*	*26.595*	*407*	*125,162*
32	*Total fibres*	*17,431*	*5,823*	*15.338*	*28.938*	*10.858*	*13.175*	*1,948*	*4.016*	*5,152*	*426*	*103.105*
33	Tobacco	40	..	..	10	15	15	6	11	4	..	101
34	*Total fodder crops*	*3,224*	*1,150*	*1,643*	*6.796*	*1,172*	*1,703*	*955*	*458*	*908*	*381*	*18,390*
35	*Total non-food crops*	*39,312*	*12.906*	*34.481*	*55,096*	*15,904*	*35.703*	*9,739*	*9,744*	*32,659*	*1,214*	*246,758*
36	**Total area under food and non-food crops**	**64.405**	**39.735**	**58.325**	**95,027**	**39,064**	**65,800**	**22,704**	**33,965**	**67,875**	**12,335**	**497.235**

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

OLD TIME INDUSTRIES

The Sabarkantha district is industrially backward. Even when the territories of the present district were under different States and Estates, the district had very few industries. In the latter half of the 19th century, the economic structure mainly consisted of agriculture supplemented by traditional crafts and handicrafts plied by local artisans and craftsmen, some of whom acquired the highest degree of technical skill. In the *Administration Report of the Idar State* for the year 1910-11, it is mentioned that the industries of stone-quarrying at Shivgadh near Himatnagar had developed.[1] About other small scale and cottage industries details are available from the *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880). It states, "the chief manufactures are of cloth *dangaris*, *dhotias*, *pachhedis*, printed *sallas* and stamped quilts, *kholia*; soap, molasses, oil, liquor, baskets, matting, pottery, charcoal, sealing wax, ornaments, wooden toys and leather shoes, belts and bags. Idar, Ahmednagar and Pethapur[2] are famous for their arms and cutlery. In the Katosan district and at Idar the manufacture of opium was carried on, but is now forbidden. At Katosan during the year 1875-76 A. D. sixty-five chests and at Idar 145 chests together yielded the Idar State a revenue of £ 812 (Rs. 8,120). In 1877-78, at Idar, fifty-nine chests yielded £ 336 (Rs. 3,360) and at Katosan eleven chests yielded £ 52 (Rs. 517). Coarse cotton, *doti*, cloth is woven all over the district by Dheds The Idar manufacture of red powder, *kanku*, has died out. In some parts Raikas and Bharvads for their own use get blankets made by Ravalias and pack-saddles, *dalis* are also made but wool-weaving

1. *Sandstone Quarries in Idar State.*

"At Ahmadnagar (Himatnagar) and other places in the former Idar State, now merged in the Sabarkantha district of Bombay State, is quarried a very superior variety of calciferous sandstone which appears to have been largely used in the construction of the mosques and temples at Ahmedabad. The cement made from the stone was equally famous, showing as bright as marble. The author of the Mirat-i-Ahmadi makes special reference to the white stone obtainable from the Idar quarries, and to the use of the lime for the walls and terraces of buildings. 'If employed in plastering, he adds, it takes so fine a polish as to reflect the light as a looking-glass,' when in the reign of Firdaus-i-Ashiani Shah Jahan the royal buildings in the citadel of Shahjahanabad (Delhi) were built, the lime made from this stone was taken from Gujarat by the King's order, and used in their construction. The mausoleums of the Muslim saints, the temples of the Hindus, and other public works are erected with this lime: as are also numerous canals, water-reservoirs and other like buildings."

Source :

COMMISSARIAT M. S., *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, (1957), p. 532.

2. Pethapur and Katosan are not included in the district. However, prior to 1948 they along with States like Idar, Mohanpur, etc., were under Mahi Kantha Agency.

is not an industry of any importance. At Idar, Sadra and Mansa, Maniars, both Hindus and Musalmans, make ivory bracelets. The process is the same as at Ahmedabad. All well-to-do Hindu women including Rajputs and Kanbis use them in the same way as in Ahmedabad. At Vadali, Brahmakhed, Meghraj and Mohanpur, Darbars make jars for holding clarified butter; the process of making them is the same as at Ahmedabad. They also make small oil jars, *budhlis* and *kundis* and scales. Mochis, generally Hindus, make for local consumption shoes, country saddles, knife cases and small boxes *khisis*."[1]

In addition to the crafts mentioned above the weaving industries was practised in some of the villages of the Idar State. The looms used were, however, of the old style and consequently the output was not very high. Another important industry in the district was the tanning of leather. This industry was mainly in the hands of backward classes.

From the foregoing description it would be observed that in past also the district was industrially backward. Apart from large Scheduled Tribes and backward class population a factor which hampered the growth of large or medium industries in the district was the lack of communication facilities such as, railways and roads.

INDUSTRIALISATION

Industrialisation is quite a recent phase in the economic development of the district. The industries by and large can be divided into 4 groups, *viz.*, (1) large scale industries, (2) medium-scale industries, (3) small scale industries, and (4) cottage industries. In past, prior to integration, only small scale and cottage industries thrived in the district. The district, it may be pointed out was never industrially advanced. The Survey of Small Scale Industries of Gujarat State conducted by the Directorate of Industries,[2] Government of Gujarat and published in 1969 has listed the Sabarkantha district as industrially backward even though there are good natural resources in it. The *Report on Sabarkantha Field Study Project* states, "In the district about 93 per cent of the people live in rural areas with agriculture as their main occupation. But agriculture cannot provide full-time employment in rural areas. In this situation village industries offer a supplementary occupation to villagers. Such industries are recognised as the back-bone of our rural economy. Their reconstruction and development are essential on co-operative basis."[3] The report in fact has given proper picture of the industrial development that had taken place in the district till 1963-64.

1. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur, and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, (1880), p. 378.
2. Directorate of Industries, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, *Survey of Small Scale Industries*, (1969), p. 61.
3. Government of Gujarat, *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, (1964), p. 148.

It states, " Before integration, the district was primarily agricultural. In view of the insecurity in the princely States, capitalists were reluctant to establish industries in the district. After integration, this inhibition which impeded industrial development was removed and impetus was provided by supply of financial assistance for purchase of improved implements, seeds, fertilizers, etc. Changes in the tools and techniques of agricultural production have helped alter the cropping pattern in the district. Groundnut and cotton, which were practically unknown before 1950-51, have spread throughout the district. These cash crops provide an agricultural base to the cotton ginning factories and oil mills. With the progress of plans, considerable advance has been made in industrial development. Still no big industry such as textile or any big industrial unit which would employ over 100 persons is established in the district so far."

The development relates to different medium and small-scale industries, which include small units which are not registered as factories. The figures showing progress given below are only approximate.[1]

Sl. No.	Type of Industry	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1962-63
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Oil mills including some oil mills and ginning factories and some including rice mills	4	16	34	40
2	Only ginning factories	..	4	15	7
3	China clay refineries	.	1	2	2
4	Stone quarries	N.A.	N.A.	14	14
5	Cement processing	..	..	1	11
6	Saw mills	N.A.	N.A.	13	13
7	Soap factories	3	4	9	9
8	Cotton spinning and rope factory ..	..	..	1	1
9	Miscellaneous (Steel furniture, agricultural implements, etc.) ..	..	1	18	19

After 1962-63, the oil milling industry has gained impetus in the district. A survey of oil milling industry was conducted by Government of Gujarat

1. Government of Gujarat : *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, (1964), p. 148.

N. A. = Not available.

and the results have been published in the Industrial Bulletin of January, 1971. An idea of the development of oil industry is evident from the Statement V·1 given below.

STATEMENT V·1

Ratios of Selected Items of Groundnut Industry in the District

Reporting units (No.)	Per unit investment in plants and machinery (Rs.)	Per unit employment (No.)	Per unit groundnut crushing (1967-68) (Tonnes)	Per unit production of groundnut oil (1967-68) (Tonnes)	Per unit production of groundnut oil cakes (1967-68) (Tonnes)
1	2	3	4	5	6
21	66,375	26	1,359	406	650

Source :
Directorate of Industries, *Industrial Bulletin*, Vol. X, No. 1, January (1971), p. 40.

From the above statement it will be observed that groundnut industry has significantly developed in the district. Cotton ginning and pressing industry has also developed substantially, as would be seen from the fact that there were as many as 35 registered factories in the district.

One way to measure the spread of industrialisation in the district is to examine the number of industrial centres. The sub-joined Statement V·2 would indicate the number of industrial centres in the Sabarkantha district in the years 1956, 1960 and 1965.

STATEMENT V-2

Number of Industrial Centres in 1956, 1960 and 1965. Number of Centres appearing and disappearing by 1965 along with net increase or decrease during 1956-60, 1960-65 and 1956-65

Total No. of centres			No. of centres existing in all the three years, 1956, 1960 and 1965	No. of centres disappearing by 1965			No. of centres appearing by 1965			Net increase (+) or decrease (-) during the period		
1956	1960	1965		Existing in 1956 and also in 1960	Existing in 1956 but not in 1960	Not existing in 1956 but existing in 1960	Existing neither in 1956 nor in 1960	Not existing in 1956 but existing in 1960	Existing in 1956 but not in 1960 and reappearing in 1965	1956-60	1960-65	1956-65
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	21	20	14	..	..	4	3	3	..	(+)7	(-)1	(+)6

Source :

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, *Location of Industries in Gujarat State, 1956, 1960 and 1965*. p. 13.

From the above Statement V·2, it would be observed that there were in all 14 centres in the year 1956 all over the district. The number increased to 21 in 1960 but decreased to 20 in 1965. A still more detailed idea about the spread of industrialisation is observed from the statement given below which furnishes a break up of the number of centres according to the size of industrial units for the years 1956, 1960 and 1965.

STATEMENT V·3

Number of Centres According to the Size of Industrial Units 1956, 1960 and 1965

Year	Centres with large scale factories only	Centres with small scale factories only	Centres with both large scale and small scale factories	Centres non-classificable	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1956 ..	5	1	8	..	14
1960 ..	9	5	7	..	21
1965 ..	10	3	7	..	20

Source :
Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, *Location of Industries in Gujarat State, 1956, 1960 and 1965*, p. 14.

It would be observed from the foregoing statement that in 1956, there were 5 centres with large scale factories only and one centre with small scale factories only. The centres with both large scale and small scale factories numbered 8 in 1956. The number of centres with large scale factories only in 1960 was 9, while the centres with small scale factories only were 5 and centres with both large scale and small scale factories was 7. In 1965, however, centres with large scale factories only numbered 10 ; but centres with small scale factories only numbered 3 and centres with both large scale and small scale factories were 7 in all. It will thus be seen that as compared to 1956 and 1960, the centres with large scale factories only have increased in 1965 in the district. This shows that the district is on way to industrialisation.

POWER

The development and economic prosperity of a region are judged by its industrial and agricultural growth. Power is the prime necessity and the generation of power and its consumption by industry and agriculture are indicators of development.

At the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan, there was only one diesel station at Himatnagar with an installed capacity of 160 K. W. As the

diesel sets were old, the station did not function satisfactorily. During the Second Five Year Plan the Electricity Board contemplated extension of the grid supply from Vijapur to Himatnagar. From the North Gujarat Electric Grid System, power was supplied to Himatnagar after March, 1957 by laying 11 KV lines from Vijapur. The diesel power-house in the town was closed thereafter.

At the end of the Second Five Year Plan period, the Board formulated a scheme to extend in bulk the benefit of grid supply to a few important towns in the district by extending 66 KV., lines from Barejadi sub-station of the North Gujarat Grid Station. The scheme was called the Sabarkantha District Electrification Scheme. In 1960, it was accorded administrative approval and technical sanction for Rs. 75·72 lakhs.[1]

Under the scheme, preliminary work such as survey of transmission line routes, plans, etc., were undertaken during the year 1960-61 and one village Dhansura (taluka Modasa) was electrified in 1960-61 by laying 11 KV., line from Modasa.

It may be noted that the scheme was to be included in the Third Five Year Plan. But in view of the insistence of the Planning Commission, the preliminary work of the scheme was started in the last year of the Second Five Year Plan, (1960-61).[2] In the Third Five Year Plan, the State grid was contemplated. This establishment of State grid was possible on account of construction of Dhuvaran Thermal Power Station Project. The Sabarkantha district has also been linked with this State grid. The power distribution in the different areas of the district is carried out through grid system which supplies power to all districts of the State except Kutch. The following sub-stations have been constructed for transmitting and distributing the power in the district. The capacities of respective sub-stations are shown below

Sl. No.	Name of sub-station	Capacity
1	2	3
1	66 KV. sub-station at Talod	9 MVA
2	66 KV. sub-station at Himatnagar	10 MVA
3	66 KV. sub-station at Idar	10 MVA
4	33/11 KV. sub-station at Modasa	3 MVA
5	33/11 KV. sub-station at Bayad	4 MVA

The power to the district including following towns, *viz.*, Idar, Himatnagar, Prantij and Modasa is supplied through these stations.

1. Government of Gujarat, *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, Ahmedabad, (1964), p. 153.
2. *Ibid.*

Consumption of Electricity

Consumption of electricity during the years 1966-67 and 1968-69 is given in following table.

Sl. No. 1	Item 2	In Kwh. 1966-67 3	1968-69 4
1	Domestic consumption	13,79,000	22,29,200
2	Industrial power consumption	32,43,700	45,83,400
3	Commercial consumption	8,21,600	9,48,000
4	Other consumption	19,64,700	62,44,900

Source :
The Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Board, Baroda.

The foregoing table shows that the consumption for industrial purposes has gone up from 32,43,700 Kwh. in 1966-67 to 45,83,400 Kwh. in 1968-69.

Rural Electrification

An important object of the Third Five Year Plan was to develop efficient small scale industries in small towns and in rural areas so as to increase employment opportunities, raise incomes and living standard and bring about a more balanced and diversified rural economy. In achieving these objectives, the major limiting factor was the lack of power. With the supply of electricity, it becomes possible to reorganise the traditional industries and to introduce small industries based on steadily improving techniques in order to meet the new needs of the expanding rural economy. Viewed in this context, the scheme of rural electrification assumes great significance. A special attention is being given since last four or five years to rural electrification in the district At present, the rural electrification is limited to agricultural purposes. The table given below shows the plan-wise progress in electrification of villages in the district.

Year 1	Villages 2
Before First Five Year Plan	1
First Five Year Plan	..
Second Five Year Plan	2
Third Five Year Plan	42
1966-67	53
1967-68	30
1968-69	27
1969-70	24
1970-71	32
Total	211

It would thus be observed that till 1970-71, 211 villages in the district have been electrified.

Kind of Power or Fuel Used

In every 1,000 establishments worked by power and fuel in the district, 485 are worked by various forms of power or fuel and 515 without power. The following table shows the distribution of establishments and the persons employed according to kind of power or fuel used in 1961, as returned by the Housing and Establishments Census.

Distribution of Establishment and Persons Employed According to kind of Power or Fuel used, 1961

Total/ Rural/ Urban	Kind of power or fuel used	No of Units
1	2	3
Total ..	Electricity	32
	Liquid fuel	308
	Coal, wood and bagasse	271
	No power	648
		1,259
Rural	Electricity	5
	Liquid fuel	272
	Coal, wood and bagasse	208
	No power	440
Urban	Electricity	27
	Liquid fuel	36
	Coal, wood and bagasse	63
	No power	208

Source :
Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishments Tables*, (*E Series Tables*).

The above table shows that out of the total number of 1,259 units, 648 do not use any power or fuel, and among the remaining units, 32 establishments work by electrical power, 308 by liquid fuel and 271 by coal, wood and bagasse. Out of the total 32 units worked by electricity, 27 units are in the urban areas and only 5 in the rural areas. This shows that the greater use of electricity in the rural areas is not made due to want of electric power and equipment. Secondly, in the case of 308 units worked by liquid fuel, larger number of units (272) are found in the rural areas, as against 36 units in the urban areas. This indicates that rural areas depend more on liquid fuel in the absence of provision for electric power. The greater use of the liquid fuel in villages is due to the existence of small-scale and cottage industries.

Mining

The known mineral wealth of the Sabarkantha district is substantial. The *Report on the Sabarkahtha Field Study Project* states, " There are two categories of minerals, *viz*., major and minor. The major minerals found in the district are silica sand, fire-clay, soap-stone and bauxite. The minor minerals are sandstone, bentonite, shale, lime-stone and granite."1

About the mineral exploration the Report states that during October, 1952, the Geological Survey of India had carried out a geological survey of the district which revealed the following different kinds of minerals in the district.

Sl. No.	Name of mineral	Village-where found	Approximate distance from the mines to the nearest railway station
1	2	3	4
1	Asbestos ..	Devnimori, Ghant, Mora	64.37 kms. from Talod
2	Asbestos ..	Bhanmer	40.23 kms. from Idar
3	Pipe clay ..	Himatnagar	0.61 kms. from Himatnagar
4	Sili ..	Himatnagar	0.61 kms. from Himatnagar
5	Mica ..	Dobhada, Dhambolia (Bhiloda) Rudral Mahadev	12.87 kms. from Vadali
6	Steatite ..	Isari	64.37 kms. from Talod
7	Steatite ..	Bhanmer	40.23 kms. from Idar
8	China clay ..	Eklara and Arsodia	19.31 kms. from Jadar
9	Felspar (Pink) ..	Dobhada	11.26 kms. from Vadali
10	Felspar (White) ..	Dobhada	11.26 kms. from Vadali
11	Red ochre ..	Tajpura	0.61 kms. from Himatnagar
12	Yellow clay ..	Himatnagar and Arsodia	19.31 kms. from Jadar
13	Quartz ..	Isharwada	19.09 kms. from Talod
		Meghraj	74.03 kms. from Talod
14	Talc ..	Isari	64.37 kms. from Himatnagar
15	Lime-stone .	Sahebpur	20.92 kms. from Idar
		Bhotali and Vadali	1.61 kms. from Idar
16	Manganese ..	Bhimpur (Meghraj) Dhaniwada	72.42 kms. from Talod
17	Magnesite ..	Isari	67.59 kms. from Himatnagar, Talod
18	Dolomite ..	Himatnagar	0.61 kms. from Himatnagar
19	Alkaline earth .	Vavdi	11.26 kms. from Himatnagar
20	Sabonite	Sahebpur	19.31 kms. from Himatngar
21	Granite .	Idar	1.61 kms. from Idar
22	Sandstone .	Himatnagar	1.61 kms. from Himatnagar
23	Sandstone .	Berna	6.43 kms. from Himatnagar
24	Beryl (atomic) ..	Isari	64.37 kms. from Talod

Source :

Government of Gujarat, *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, (1964), Ahmedabad, p. 160.

1. *Ibid*.

The commercial exploitation of some of the minerals for the year 1968-69 in the district is shown in the Statement V·4.

STATEMENT V·4

Production, Value and Labour Employed in Mining Industry in Sabarkantha District for the Year 1970

Sl. No.	Name of mineral	Production quantity (Tonnes)	Value in Rs.	Average No. of persons employed	Royalty/deadrent paid
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	(a) China clay-crude	28,334	.	345	62,197
	(b) Refined	7,656	10,45,000	..	..
2	Fire clay ..	1,695	3,000	..	1,777
3	Pipe clay ..	779	3,000	4	925
4	Building stones				
	(a) Sandstone ..	40,513	2,17,572	75	33,512
	(b) Granite ..	4,261	12,782	8	4,213
	(c) Lime-stone ..	1,725	6,900	6	1,994
5	Silica sand ..	17,093	1,11,000	43	.
6	Road metal				
	(a) Quartzite ..	9,020	27,060	8	
	(b) Black trap ..	2,29,131	9,16,523	255	2,17,013

Source : Department of Industries, Mines and Power, Gandhinagar.

Mineral Administration

The Directorate of Geology and Mining advises Government and private industrialists in matters pertaining to the economic utility of minor as well as major minerals. The Directorate also keeps strict watch on minimising illegal excavations and speedy disposal of prospecting licences and mining lease applications.

The Directorate was reorganised with effect from 1st April, 1971 so that instead of the regional offices, in every district. the Collector is the main officer-in-charge of mineral administration assisted by a technical officer of the Directorate of Geology and Mining.

Major Mineral Administration

The functions of the Directorate and the Revenue Department are distributed for the major mineral administration. For the exploitation of major minerals prospecting licences and mining leases applications are

received from the interested parties. Spot inspection studies are made of such applications and technical opinion in the matter is recommended to the Government. Once the mining leases are executed spot inspections are carried out to ensure that scientific mining is done in accordance with the terms and conditions of the deed. The lease holders are guided and advised from time to time in the matter.

Minor Mineral Administration

Owing to the enforcement of new Minor Mineral Rules from 1st April, 1966 the functions of the Directorate had been regularised and the Directorate became responsible in administrative matters.

In order to dispose off applications for quarrying licences quickly, regional offices are delegated with sufficent powers. For long term excavation of minor minerals quarrying licences are issued. The Royalty Inspectors and Mines Supervisors check the accounts maintained by the licence holders. For effective minor mineral administration the post of Mines Supervisor was created. Immediate steps are taken to rectify violations of any of the rules of the lease deed or mistakes. The powers of granting quarrying licences for sand, murram and *kankar* are vested with the District Development Officer, except that of Dangs and Gandhinagar districts for which the Directorate is empowered.[1]

Trends of Industrial Development

The trends of industrial development during the last decade, 1956-1965 are reflected in the numbers of factories and workers compared in Statement V·5 given at the end of this Chapter. The figures indicate that as compared to the period 1956-60, the growth rate of large-scale factories showed substantial increase during the period 1960-65. The growth of small scale factories, however, was more or less the same during both the periods. The total number of factories has risen from 37 in 1956 to 53 in 1960 and slightly decreased to 50 in 1965. During both the periods the employment increased substantially. The employment rose substantially from 3,046 in 1956 to 4,208 in 1960 and 4,773 in 1965. Among the large-scale factories, both from the view point of employment and numbers, gins and presses deserve mention. It must be observed that as compared to 1956 when the total number of workers employed by gins and presses was 2,485 in 1965 the number of workers employed rose to 3,774. Thus considerable increase was registered in the number of workers employed. The other large factories in 1965 related to manufacture of miscellaneous food preparations (5) and manufacture and repair of motor vehicles (1).[2]

1. *Vide* Government Resolution No. MCR/2166-68847-I-Chh, dated 27th November, 1967.
2. The figures in the bracket indicate number of factories.

The statistics concerning small-scale industries also reveal that there has been some progress both in respect of increase in number of factories and employment between 1956 and 1965. The number of small-scale factories increased from 16 in 1956 to 20 in 1960. Between 1960 and 1965, the number decreased by one and the total number of factories were 19 in 1965. The corresponding increase in employment, however, was negligible. The number of workers employed increased from 480 in 1956 to 551 in 1960 and slightly decreased to 526 in 1965. Among the small-scale factories in 1965, mention must be made of manufacture of miscellaneous food preparation (9).[1] The other small-scale industries were non-metallic mineral products (6), manufacture and repair of motor vehicles (2), cordage, rope and twine industries (1), and printing, book-binding, etc., (1).

LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIES

The progress made by the large-scale industrial units in the district is reflected in the results of the Annual Survey of Industries conducted annually by the Government of India, since 1959 under the Collection of Statistics (Central) Rules, 1959. The coverage of this survey extends to the factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948. There are two sectors of the Annual Survey of Industries, *viz.*, census and sample sectors. In the census sector, factories employing 50 or more workers with the aid of power or factories employing 100 or more workers without the aid of power are completely enumerated. In the sample sector, factories employing 10 to 49 workers with the aid of power and factories employing 20 to 99 workers without the aid of power are covered on the basis of probability sample. The table given below furnishes the data in respect of factories reported under the census part of the Annual Survey of Industries.

Large-scale Factories, 1966

Sl. No.	Items	Units	Sabarkantha district
1	2	3	4
1	Number of factories	No.	33
2	Productive capital	Rs. in ('000)	9,389
3	Persons employed	No.	2,890
4	Output	Rs. in ('000)	36,112
5	Net value added by manufacture	Rs. in ('000)	3,684

Source :
Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Vol. IX, No. 2, April-June, 1969, Ahmedabad, p. 139.

1. The figures in the bracket indicate number of factories.

From the foregoing table it is observed that the district cannot boast of having a large number of industries as the economy of the district is predominantly agricultural. The major large-scale industries in the district are confined to manufacture of textiles not elsewhere classified.

REGISTERED FACTORIES

According to the returns furnished by the Chief Inspector of Factories, the total number of registered factories was 63 in 1968. Among these factories, 59 factories in private sector predominate. The public sector accounted for only 4 factories. According to the prescribed industrial classification their break-up is given in the following Statement V·6. Among the factories in the private sector, 54 were actually working in 1968 and 9 were closed.

STATEMENT V·6

Registered Factories and Workers in 1968

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry	Total No. of factories	Total No. of working factories	Total No. of working factories submitting returns	Average No. of workers employed daily in working factories
1	2	3	4	5	6
	I PUBLIC SECTOR				
1	Transport equipment	4	4	4	187
	Total	**4**	**4**	**4**	**187**
	II PRIVATE SECTOR				
1	Processes allied to agriculture (Gins and Presses)	29	27	24	3,707
2	Food except beverages	17	13	12	454
3	Textiles	1	.	.	..
4	Printing, publishing and allied industries	1	1	1	26
5	Non-metallic mineral products (Except products of petroleum and coal) ..	10	8	1	38
6	Basic metal industries	1	1	1	22
	Total ..	**59**	**50**	**39**	**4,247**
	Grand Total ..	**63**	**54**	**43**	**4,434**

Source : The Chief Inspector of Factories, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

Both from the point of employment and number, the most important units in the private sector were processes allied to agriculture (gins and presses) and food except beverages. The industries in operation covered a fairly good range of products based on local raw materials like cotton and groundnut. The extensive production of cotton in recent times is responsible for establishment of a number of gins and presses located at certain favourable centres like Himatnagar, Idar, Jadar, Bayad, Demai, Dhansura, Gambhirpura, Modasa and Talod.

LARGE-SCALE FACTORIES

The cotton plays a very vital role in the economy of the district. As observed previously there were, 35 large and small cotton ginning and pressing registered factories in the district. The cotton ginning and pressing industry is, therefore, a dominant sector in the industrial structure of the district. Alike cotton, groundnut is also an important agricultural product. In 1967-68, 28,500 tonnes of groundnut were crushed in the district and 8,500 tonnes of groundnut oil were produced.[1]

The statistical data of some of the important large-scale cotton ginning, pressing and oil mills are given below.

The Khedbrahma Co-operative Ginning and Pressing Society Limited, Khedbrahma

This unit was established in 1955. It is engaged in cotton ginning and pressing. It had a fixed capital of Rs. 4,40,939, share capital of Rs. 3,09,900 and provided employment to 100 persons in 1969-70. It disbursed Rs. 38,875 as wages and salaries. It had ginned and pressed quintal 17,912 and 93 kg. or 3,820 bales of cotton valued at Rs. 35 lakhs in 1969-70.

Shree Krishna Oil Mill and Ginning Factory, Malpur

This unit was established in 1955-56 and is at present engaged in manufacturing oil and cotton ginning. It had a fixed capital of Rs. 3,09,620 provided employment to 115 persons and disbursed Rs. 57,093 as wages and salaries in 1969-70. It produced groundnut oil, groundnut cake, sesamum oil sesamum cake cotton seed oil and cotton seed cake, valued at Rs. 42,07,077 in 1969-70. The products are sent to Ahmedabad, Bombay, Delhi and Indore.

The New Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factory, Jadar

This factory was started in 1950 and is at present engaged in cotton ginning and pressing. It had a fixed capital of Rs. 2,28,850 in 1969-70.

1. Directorate of Industries, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, *The Industrial Bulletin*, Vol. X, No. 1, January, 1971, p. 46.

In the same year, it provided employment to 198 persons and disbursed Rs. 77,706 by way of wages and salaries. It had ginned cotton and pressed 6,488 bales and produced 25,229 quintals of cotton seeds an important bye-product valued at Rs. 66,50,540 and Rs. 18,21,467 respectively. These products were sent to Bombay, Ahmedabad, Kalol and Himatnagar.

The Bharat Cotton Ginning Factory, Dhansura

This unit was started in 1943 and is at present engaged in cotton ginning. In 1969-70 it had a fixed capital of Rs. 50,002, provided employment to 153 persons and disbursed Rs. 30,573 as wages and salaries. It had ginned 3,500 bales of cotton valued at Rs. 39,30,000 in 1969-70.

The Modasa Group Co-operative Cotton Sale Ginning and Pressing Society Limited, Modasa

This unit was established in 1956. It had a fixed capital of Rs. 2,77,240 and the share capital of Rs. 3,00,000 and provided employment to 105 persons in 1969-70. In the same year, it disbursed Rs. 22,268 as wages and salaries and ginned 1,068 bales of cotton.

The Real Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factory, Dhansura

This unit came into existance in 1967 and is at present engaged in cotton ginning and pressing. In 1969-70, it had a fixed capital of Rs. 3,51,500, provided employment to 140 persons and disbursed Rs. 27,118 as wages and salaries. It had ginned and pressed 4,463 cotton bales valued at Rs. 1,07,751 in 1969-70. The cotton is sent to Bombay and Ahmedabad.

In addition to cotton ginning, pressing and oil mills there is one large-scale factory called Sabarkantha Ceramics in the district. The statistical data about it is given below.

The Sabarkantha Ceramics, Himatnagar

This unit came into existance in 1966 and is engaged in manufacturing cups and saucers. It had a fixed capital of Rs. 2,23,191 and the share capital of Rs. 2,00,000. In 1969-70 it disbursed Rs. 94,931 as wages and salaries. In the same year, it manufactured cups and saucers valued at Rs. 3,26,516. The products are sent to Maharashtra, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

SMALL-SCALE AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Since complete data regarding distribution of small-scale industries in the district are not available, the results of the survey carried out by the

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat are summarised below, as they indicate the stage of development in this sector of industry. The survey was undertaken in all the districts of the State except the Dangs and was spread over two years, 1959-60 and 1960-61. It aimed at (1) obtaining districtwise estimates of income of families in selected cottage and small-scale industries, (ii) collecting information on other related aspects such as employment, production and consumption of raw materials.

An 'establishment' was classified as cottage industry, if the number of persons engaged in it on any day was 9 or less. If the number was 10 or more and unit was not registered under the Factories Act, the establishment was classified as a small-scale establishment whether it was power operated or not Ordinarily, industrial units employing 10 or more workers and using power would be registered under the Factories Act. However, if at the time of the inquiry, such a unit was not registered, it was included in the survey.[1]

The survey as carried out was a sample survey covering the following sixteen industries in the cottage and small scale sectors (1) Weaving, (2) Dyeing and printing, (3) Jari thread works, (4) Blacksmithy, (5) Metal works (silver, brass, copper and bell), (6) Carpentry, (7) Cane and bamboo products, (8) Bricks and tiles, (9) Other potteries, (10) Leather working and tanning, (11) Oil-pressing, (12) Gur-making, (13) Bee-keeping, (14) Soap-making, (15) Match-making and (16) Paddy-husking.

For the purpose of survey, the centres were classified into strata A, B and C. Startum 'A' was relating to the centres important for different industries. Stratum 'B' to urban areas other then those covered by 'A' and startum 'C' consisted of groups of 4 to 5 villages in rest of the rural areas from which about 4 per cent of group villages were selected for the purpose of survey.

Distribution of Establishments by Industry

There were in all 9,089 establishments in the 16 industries surveyed in the district, out of which 9,077 establishments (99·9 per cent) were in the cottage sector and only 12 (0.1 per cent) were in the small scale sector.

Power vs *No Power*

Out of the 9,077 cottage establishments, only 19 (0·2 per cent) were operated with power and 9,058 (99.8 per cent) were operated without power.

1. *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. II, No. I, January-March, 1962, p. 1.

Employment

The total number of persons employed in both the sectors in the district were 19,197, persons out of whom, 18,758 (97·7 per cent) were household persons and 439 (2.3 per cent) were non-household workers.

Small Industries in Unorganised Sector in Urban Areas

The Bureau of Economics and Statistics carried out in 1969-70 the listing survey of small industries[1] in the unorganised sector of the urban areas of the district under the Centrally sponsored scheme which is included in the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

The industrial unit was defined as any unit engaged in production (other than agriculture), processing, repairs and or industrial servicing. The units rendering personal services were excluded (*e. g.*, laundries, hotels, dispensaries, etc.).

The units were further classified as units using power and units not using power. The unit was considered to be using power if any kind of motive power was used directly or indirectly in the process of production. In the district, the data was collected from the following 5 urban centres, *viz.*, (i) Himatnagar, (ii) Idar, (iii) Modasa, (iv) Prantij and (v) Talod.

From the sub-joined Statement V·7 it would be observed that there were 44 industrial units employing 5 or more workers in the unorganised sector of the urban areas of the district providing employment to 319 persons. Of the 44 units, 24 were found using power while 20 were not using power. The units using power provided employment to 149 persons while units not using power gave employment to 170 persons.

The survey has revealed some interesting results. It may be pointed out that tobacco manufacturing (4),[2] manufacture of textiles, manufacture of wood and cork except manufacture of furniture (1), manufacture of chemicals including fertilizers and manufacture of non-metallic mineral products except products of petroleum and coal (2) did not use power, while food manufacturing industries except beverages industries (6), manufacture of furniture and fixture (2), printing, publishing and allied industries (4), and manufacture of metal products except machinery and transport equipment (2), used power.

From the point of view of employment, it may be noted that units engaged in food manufacturing industries except beverage industries and

1. Units not registered under the Factories Act of 1948, were taken up for the survey.

2. Figures mentioned in the brackets indicate the number of units.

tobacco manufactures both provided employment to 60 persons, while manufacture of furniture and fixtures provided employment to 33 persons.

STATEMENT V·7

Number of Industrial Units (Employing 5 or more Workers) and their Employment in the unorganised Sectors (1969-70)

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry	Units: Using power	Units: Not using power	Units: Total	Employment: Using power	Employment: Not using power	Employment: Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Food manufacturing industries except beverage industries	6	4	10	43	25	68
2	Tobacco manufactures ..	..	4	4	..	68	68
3	Manufacture of textiles ..	..	1	1	..	6	6
4	Manufacture of wood and cork except manufacture of furniture	..	1	1	..	5	5
5	Manufacture of furniture and fixtures	2	4	6	13	20	33
6	Printing, publishing and allied industries	4	..	4	32	..	32
7	Manufacture of chemicals including fertilizers ..	..	2	2	..	12	12
8	Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products except products of petroleum and coal	..	2	2	..	24	24
9	Manufacture of metal products except machinery and transport equipment ..	2	..	2	10	..	10
10	Manufacture of machinery except electrical machinery	10	2	12	51	10	61
	Total	**24**	**20**	**44**	**149**	**170**	**319**

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

In well-balanced pattern of industrialisation, it is necessary to ensure that the growth of industries is not lop-sided. During the Second Five Year Plan it was generally accepted that industrial estates could become a tool for dispersal and decentralisation of industrial units and also could generate substantial employment, provided they were planned as an integral part of programmes for regional development. It is a tool which provides

developed and planned suitable sites on an economical scale with group of well-planned factory buildings for existing as well as prospective small entrepreneurs. The sheds may be of different types and sizes made available within the capacity of entrepreneurs on rental hire purchase or out-right sale basis. It provides infra-structure such as water supply, drainage, power, internal roads, street lights and allied amenities, which *inter alia* include post-office, canteen and watch and ward.

There is one industrial estate in the district at Himatnagar. The construction work of indusrial estate commenced in January, 1966 and was completed in January, 1970. In all, 2 sheds have been constructed, out of which one has been allotted to stone crushing industry. The Government has invested Rs. 1·91 lakhs in the estate. The basic facilities such as water supply, electricity, drainage, etc., are available at the estate.

With a view to ensuring co-ordinated planning and speedy growth of industries in the State, the ownership and management of this industrial estate has been tranferred to the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation with effect from 23rd January, 1970.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Lacquerware Industry of Idar

The origin of the craft of lacquered toys of Idar is not known. While no authentic information is available from the reliable records, it is generally believed that the craft is more than three centuries old. The craftsmen are locally called Kharadis and belong to potter's community hailing from Udaipur and Pratapgarh in Rajasthan, where they were known as 'Maru Kumbhars'. On account of better employment opportunities, one family of Maru Kumbhar immigrated into the Idar State. In course of time, the family switched over from pottery to toy-making craft. This switch over was greatly facilitated on account of easy accessibility to surrounding forests for the soft wood required for the purpose of manufacturing toys. It seems that the family was inspired and encouraged by the prosperity of craft elsewhere in Gujarat. It is believed that the families practising the craft at Idar at present are the descendants of the family mentioned above.

A survey of the craft was conducted by Government of India in 1964 with a view to ascertaining its position and future prospects.[1] The findings of the survey are listed below.

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1. All India Handicrafts Board (Planning and Research Section), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, Bombay, *Survey Report*, No. 94, *Lacquerware Industry, Idar,* (Gujarat), 1966.

The survey revealed that in all 28 establishments were engaged in the lacquerware craft at Idar. An overwhelming majority comprising as many as 21 were inherited and the remaining 7 were self-started. Of the 28 establishments 23 units were proprietary in nature, while the remaining 5 were family partnerships. None among the establishments was registered under any Act.

All the establishments worked on their own. The place of work in respect of the bulk of the establishments—24 in number—was the same as the family house, while 4 establishments had separate premises.

All the 28 establishments employed 60 persons. Of the 60 persons, 33 were working on full-time basis, while 27 worked on part time basis. All but 3 of the full-time workers were males. Female workers numbered 28 (25 part-time and 3 full-time). The children, who worked for the craft numbered 2. All persons were family workers.

The survey revealed that wide range of lacquered articles were turned out at Idar. These are listed below :

(1) *Toys and Dolls*—Cooking-set, tea-set with chairs, aeroplane, telephone, petromax, hand cart, woman with pots, table lamp, toys in bags, etc.

(2) *Utility Articles*—Kumkum box, *agarbatti* stand, *velan* (Bread roller), powder box, calendar plate, handles for cutlery articles, etc.

(3) *Decorative Articles*—Flower vases, imitation fruits, birds, designed plates, etc.

The survey revealed that investment in the craft amounted to Rs. 49,400. Of this Rs. 32,800 were in the form of fixed capital, while the remaining Rs. 16,600 formed the working capital. In terms of percentage, the fixed capital and the working capital accounted for 66·5 per cent and 33·5 per cent, respectively of the total capital. The share of land and buildings in the fixed capital amounted to Rs. 30,000 (91·5 per cent) and the balance of Rs. 2,800 (8·5 per cent) was on account of tools and equipment. No machinery worth the name was employed. The state of finance of the establishments was very poor. With one solitary exception, almost all the establishments were indebted.

The primary raw materials required were wood, lac and colours, while the subsidiary raw materials were resin, lithophone powder, tin and polishing powder. At the time of survey the craft consumed raw materials collectively worth Rs. 32,900. The most important item of raw material was wood which accounted for Rs. 23,000. The other items of raw

materials, *viz.*, colour, tin, lithophone powder, lac, resin and polishing powder accounted for 29·4 per cent of the total raw material cost.

It may be observed that the principal reason why the craft has been established at Idar is the easy availability of wood. The bulk of wood required is procured from the Government forests of Vijaynagar mahal in the district and from Kherwada range of forests in Rajasthan, which are at a distance ranging from 48·28 kms. to 96·56 kms. A part of the requirement of wood is also met from the forests on the hills surrounding Idar. Establishments at Idar use three varieties of wood locally called 'Kado', 'Dudhi' and 'Mokho'. 'Kado' is straight in shape, white in colour and is very smooth to work with. It is, therefore, considered the most suitable variety for the artistic articles and is most widely used. The next best and popular variety is 'Dudhi', which though white, is relatively softer, lighter and cheaper and is well-suited for toys. Lastly, 'Mokho' is the least used variety, being very heavy, costly and not easily available, as it is mostly consumed by the charcoal industry.

It may be noted that the wood purchased from the contractors and or unauthorised suppliers is fresh from the forest and is not, therefore, suitable for immediate use. It is, therefore, seasoned by natural process by storing it for months before it is used. Barring two establishments which have godown facilities, all the Kharadis store the requirements of wood in the attic portion of their houses.

The lacquerware industry at Idar employs the traditional technique of production, using the age-old implements. The 'Sanghada' (wood turning device) in use is manually operated even though electricity, is available at Idar. The other implements include carpentry tools such as hand-saw, planer, chisels, hammer, files, etc.

The process of manufacturer employed in the craft is interesting and is, therefore, detailed below :

"Keeping in view the article to be made, a piece of wood of the required girth is chosen and cut into proper size with the help of a hand-saw. The piece so cut is fixed between the two points of the 'Sanghada' tight enough to hold the piece, but loose enough to allow it to turn round its axis when the 'Sanghada' is in operation. The 'Sanghada' is then operated with the help of shaft, holding chisels and such other sharp instruments against the turning wooden piece, when the piece gets the desired spherical design. Next, sand-paper is held against the wooden piece in place of chisels, for polishing. The piece now is ready for lacquering, which is done by holding coloured lac sticks against turning wood. While some craftmen purchase lac sticks from fellow craftsmen, most of the craftsmen prepare their own lac stick by melting lac, resin and lithophone powder more or less in the proportion of 2:1:1 and

adding the requisite colour. Finally, a piece of cloth or dry Kevda leaf moistened with groundnut oil is rubbed against the article in the process of revolving when the lac gets evened out and the colour brightens up. Wherever necessary, the designs are then painted on the article and again a coating of plain lac is given. So also, wherever necessary, in the case of birds for example, other parts such as legs and beak are fitted into the article. The final product is now ready."[1]

The marketing of the goods is done both directly and through middle men. The bulk of the marketing is mainly in the hands of dealers, who by virtue of their position as lenders are able to purchase goods from craftsmen at prices unremunerative to the latter. The peak marketing season is from February to May when most of the religious festivals and fairs at Idar and nearby religious centres like Shamalaji and Khedbrahma take place. A marketing co-operative society, *viz*.. Shri Kharadi Sahakari Griha Audyogika Mandli Ltd., was registered in 1949. The society functioned for a couple of years with limited activities. By the end of 1961, a section of the Kharadi community established, what they called, Kharadi Panch Association. The Association functioned only for two months.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The industrial development, *inter alia*, is related to the availability of primary resources. The main occupation of the people in the district is agriculture and agricultural pursuits. There are very few large scale industries. The chief industries at present are cotton ginning and pressing and oil milling. The oil mills located in the district take up the local produce of oil seeds which are sown over fairly extensive areas in the district. Other industries in the small scale sector, which have developed are bone crushing, tanning, ceramics, fire bricks and refractories, stone quarry, agricultural equipments, etc. The main industries which thrive at present in the district are based upon the primary resources. In other words, agro-based-industries have been hitherto the backbone of the industrial development in the district It has been observed previously that the district is industrially backward. Apart from a large Scheduled Tribles and Backward Class population a factor which hampered the growth of large or medium industries in the area is the lack of communication facilities such as railways and roads. With the execution of various road works under Five Year Plans, this difficulty has been overcome partially.

Since the district became part of the Bombay State in 1948 emphasis has been laid time and again on the speedy industrialisation. There has been some development in the periods of the First, Second, Third and

1. All India Handicrafts Board, (Planning and Research Section), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, Bombay, *Survey Report*, No. 94, *Lacquerware Industry*, *Idar*, (Gujarat), 1966, p. 8.

Fourth Five Year Plans. Under the impact of planning new resources are becoming available for industrialisation in a large measure and facilities for their utilisation and for further development are being created in the district. An attempt is made to study the resources available for industrial development from agricultural raw materials, forest produce, minerals, salt and others. The potentialities of industrial development are discussed hereafter.

Industries Based on Primary Resources (Agricultural Products)

Groundnut and cotton-seed are important oil seeds grown in the district. The production of groundnut seeds in the district is in the neighbourhood of 17,100 tonnes while that of cotton seeds is about 24,000 tonnes.[1] The groundnut oil seeds crushing industry has of late developed in the district. At present, however, there is no industry extracting oil from the oil cakes. Solvent extraction of oil cakes to recover residual oil and obtain practically oil-free cake is an important feature of the oil industry. In fact, oil-milling, solvent extraction of oil cakes, refining of oil, utilising bye-product soap stock for manufacture of soap and splitting fats are advantageous chain processes. A plant with a 50 tonnes capacity for processing of meal (oil cake or seeds) would require capital investment of about Rs. 15 lakhs, providing employment to about 60 persons. A combination of 50 tonnes solvent extraction plant and a refinery of matching capacity would require capital investment of about Rs. 25 lakhs and would give employment to 90 to 100 persons. The suitable location in the district appears to be Himatnagar.[2]

Cotton-seed Oil - Recovery of oil from cotton-seed is of considerable importance. This industry is of recent origin. Cotton-seed, besides being a source of oil, is a valuable source of linters, manure and cattle feed. Better quality of oil is obtained, if the seeds are delinted and decorticated before their extraction. Delinting makes available linters, a valuable raw material for production of chemical cotton, gun-cotton, high grade paper, rayon grade pulp and other cellulose products. A composite unit, therefore, for recovering linters, and decorticating seeds for extraction of oil and refining will be desirable. In the district there are 29 ginning and pressing factories. A 60 tonnes per day cotton-seed plant would require an investment of about Rs 25 lakhs. In case of solvent extraction plant, additional cost of cotton-seed preparatory machinery and attendant non-recurring expenditure will be about Rs. 7 lakhs. Thus capital requirement will be about Rs 32 lakhs, and employment will be provided to about 70 to 80 persons. In the district Himatnagar offers a suitable location.

1. Industries Officer, Sabarkantha district.

2. Government of Bombay, *Master Plan of Industrialisation*, Bombay, (1960), p. 11.

Other Agricultural Products—In addition to groundnut and cotton other primary agricultural products available in the district are maize, rice and *mug* (cereal). Despite the availability of these products, there is no roller floor mill for the manufacture of wheat floor or maize floor. There is also good scope for a pulse mill in this district.

In view of the large number of oil mills there is a scope for manufacture of hydrogenated oil.

Industries Based on Livestock

There is considerable scope for the dairy industry in the district. A dairy is likely to be established in the district in the near future. At present only two units based on livestock, *viz.*, one bone mills and one tanning unit are functioning. The other industry that can be profitably developed in the district is the wool industry.

Industries Based on Minerals

As pointed out earlier the district abounds in mineral wealth. Building stones, lime-stone, marble, glass-sand, iron-ore, manganese-ore, china clay, asbestos, mica, quartz, and monazite are found in the district. The mineral resources of the district have not been adequately exploited. The industry based on the mineral resources in the district is only ceramic industry. It manufactures stoneware articles mainly utilising the china clay available in the district. The ceramic industry can be further developed by manufacturing sanitary articles, the low tension insulators and other industrial articles.

The other minerals which can profitably be utilised for establishing industries available are fire clay, pipe clay, granite stone bentonite and silica sand The fire clay can be used for manufacturing fire bricks, while pipe clay can be used in the manufacture of Manglore tiles for roofing purposes. Granite stone is mainly used in cement concreting and for road constructions. Bentonite is the clay used in the formulation of insecticides, as the media. The silica sand in the district is at present only used in powdering the lumps. The sand is used in the moulding of cast-iron and glass industry. Recently, some samples have been found of mica in the forest area of Vijayanagar. The Geology and Mining Department has been requested to undertake a sample survey of mica in the area.

Industries Based on other Products

In addition to the industries mentioned above, there is considerable scope for the establishment of following industries :

(1) Manufacture of agricultural equipment.
(2) Powerlooms industry.

(3) Manufacture of cloth from nylon filament yarn,
(4) Plastic articles, and
(5) Manufacture of leather goods.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS

Labour Organisation

The trade union movement signifies a collective effort on the part of labourers to increase their bargaining power in the labour market and thereby improve their social and economic conditions. It may be pointed out that in the district there are only very few stable mass unions dominated by leaders who are mostly social workers. The trade unions in the district at present are governed by the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926. The statement given below shows the progress of labour unions in the district.

Year	Number of Unions	Number of Members
1	2	3
1960-61	2	70
1961-62	1	540
1962-63	..	..
1963-64	..	..
1964-65	2	712
1965 (1st April, 1965 to 31st December, 1965)	2	714
1966	2	711
1967	2	114
1968	5	417
1969	5	410

Source : The Registrar of Trade Unions, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

From the above statement, it would be observed that the number of the trade unions has increased from 2 in 1960-61 to 5 in 1969. However, the membership of the union has fluctuated. Moreover, the unions have not been conducting welfare activities to any appreciable extent in the district

Employers' Organisations

The Sabarkantha Jilla Sahakari Ginners, Oil Mills and Kharid Vechan Sanghs' Union Limited, Himatnagar—It is already stated that district is

industrially backward and as such, there are very few large scale and small scale industries. Consequently, there are no prominent Employers' Organizations. The only Employers' Organization worth mentioning is the Sabarkantha Jilla Sahakari Ginners, Oil Mills and Kharid Vechan Sanghs' Union Limited, Himatnagar.

This union was started in 1966 primarily for the purpose of tackling the problems arising on account of the policy of the Government or the Reserve Bank of India. At present, its members are co-operative agricultural produce processing and sale societies and the co-operative taluka and district purchase and sale unions. In 1969, the total number of members was 13.

WELFARE OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

Prior to Independence the States and Estates whose territories now form part of Sabarkantha district were under the Mahi Kantha Agency. There was no labour legislation practically in all the States and Estates. However, the labour legislation of the former Bombay State was already in force in Prantij and Modasa talukas which formed part of the Ahmedabad district and which were transferred to the Sabarkantha district in 1949. With Independence and the merger of States and Estates in the former Bombay State, the labour laws of the former Bombay State were extended to the Sabarkantha district. Among several important measures undertaken by Government, the factory legislation stands out prominently.[1]

The Indian Factories Act, 1948

History—The harmonious industrial relationship in factories and workshops depends on the humane treatment of the workers. For the regulation of conditions of labour, a beginning in the labour legislation was made as early as 1881, when the Factories Act, 1881 was passed This Act was a simple piece of legislation primarily designed to protect children and to provide for some health and safety measures. The Act was amended several times to meet the changing conditions. In 1934, it was drastically amended to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India and the conventions of the International Labour Organisation. Since 1937, the Act has been amended from time to time widening its scope and enlarging the rights of workers. However, inspite of a series of amendments, the general frame-work of the Act had remained unchanged. Its working emphasized the need for complete revision with a view to strengthening its

1. The other Acts such as Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, which promote the Welfare of the Industrial labour have been described in Chapter XVII–Other Social Services.

provisions relating to safety, health and welfare of the workers. It was also felt desirable to extend its protective provisions to the large number of smaller industrial establishments, which were then not within the purview of the Act. In 1948, therefore, an entirely new Act was enacted to consolidate and amend the law relating to labour in factories. The Act lays down the minimum provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers in factories.

The main provisions of the Act are as follows :

The Act covers all industrial establishments employing 10 or more workers, where power is used, or 20 or more workers where power is not used. It removes the distinction between perennial and seasonal factories. It has made a number of provisions relating to health, safety and welfare of workers. It provides for cleanliness, ventilation, cooling of air, sufficient lighting, supply of drinking water, separate latrines and urinals for males and females, artificial humidification, disposal of waste and effluents.

It further provides for fencing of machinery by substantial construction, only specially trained adult male workers being permitted to handle the machinery in motion. No woman or child is allowed to clean, lubricate or adjust any part of the moving machinery. The other safety provisions relate to the casing of new machinery devices for cutting off power, hoists, cranes and other lifting machines, protection of eyes and precautions against dangerous fumes.

Provision is made for adequate washing facilities, canteens in units employing 250 workers, creches in units employing 50 women and shelters or rest rooms in units employing 150 workers. The Act also requires the owner of any factory employing 500 or more workers to appoint a Labour Welfare Officer.

The minimum age for employment of young persons is fixed at 14 and the upper age limit in adolescents is raised from 17 to 18 years.

The hours of work have been fixed at 48 hours a week and 9 hours a day for adult workers. For persons below 18, the hours of work are fixed at 4½ hours a day. The employment of children and women between 7 p. m. and 6 a. m. is prohibited. For overtime work, twice the normal rate of wage is to be paid.

As regards leave with wages, besides weekly holidays, every worker is entitled to enjoy leave with wages after one year's continuous service.

Thus, the Act makes adequate provisions for the safety, health and welfare of the workers.

Recreational, Medical and other Facilities—It has been observed previously that the district is industrially backward. In the district, there are very few large scale and small scale factories which have made provisions for medical, recreational and other ancilliary facilities. Moreover, there are no Labour Welfare Centres in the district. However, during 1971-72 sport centres one each at Idar and Himatnagar have been set up for the workers.

WAGES

The problem of wage determination cannot be considered in isolation from the larger economic and social background obtaining at present in the district. A well conceived wage policy aims at (a) continuous improvement in workers, living standard and (b) reasonable returns for the employers. The subjoined Statement V·8 gives a comparative idea of the minimum wages fixed for workers in rice, flour, *dal* and oil mills, cotton ginning and pressing and tannaries and leather manufacture in the district.

STATEMENT V-8

Rates of Minimum Wages in the District fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

Sl. No. 1	Name of the employment 2	Skilled 3	Semi-skilled 4	Unskilled 5	Area of operation 6
1	Oil Mills	Rs. 3.00 per day	Rs. 2.70 per day	Rs. 2.40 per day	
2	Rice mills, flour mills and *dal* mills	90.00 per month	80.00 per month	72.00 per month	Towns having a population of 35,000 and above as per 1961 Census.
		85.00 per month	75.00 per month	67.00 per month	Towns having a population of 10,000 persons and above but less than 35,000 persons as per 1961 Census.
3	Tannaries and leather manufactory				
	(a) Tanneries	91.00 per month	83.20 per month	78.00 per month	
	(b) Leather manufactory	93.60 per month	85.80 per month	80.60 per month	

Sl. No.	Name of the employment	Skilled-A	Skilled-B	Semi-skilled-A	Semi-skilled-B	Unskilled
4	Cotton ginning or cotton pressing ..					
	(a)	140.00 per month	100.00 per month	90.00 per month	80.00 per month	70.00 per month Idar, Prantij, Modasa, Himatnagar, Talod, Dhansura and the area within the radius of three kilometres.
	(b)	130.00 per month	90.00 per month	80.00 per month	70.00 per month	60.00 per month for all other areas of the Sabarkantha District.

Source :

Department of Industries, Mines and Power, Gandhinagar.

STATEMENT V-5

Number of Factories and Workers for all Industries in 1956, 1960 and 1965

Sl. No.	Name of the Factory	1956						1960			
		Large scale		Small scale		Total		Large scale		Small scale	
		Fact-ories	Work-ers	Fact-ories	Work-ers	Fact-ories	Work-ers	Fact-ories	Work-ers	Fact-ories	Work-ers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Gins and presses	16	2,241	7	244	23	2,485	26	3,135	1	47
2	Manufacture of grain mill products	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	24
3	Manufacture of miscellaneous food preparations	5	325	3	103	8	423	7	522	6	194
4	Cordage, rope and twine industries .. .	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	Printing, book-binding, etc.	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	1	19
6	Non-metallic mineral products . ..	..	..	4	102	4	102	..	..	7	195
7	Manufacture and repair of motor vehicles ..	..	..	1	23	1	23	..	..	3	62
8	Electric light and power	..	..	1	8	1	8	..	..	1	10
	Total	**21**	**2,566**	**16**	**480**	**37**	**3,046**	**33**	**3,657**	**20**	**551**

Source :

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad. *Location of Industries in Gujarat State, 1956-1960 and 1965.*

STATEMENT V-5—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name of the Factory	1960 Total		1965 Large scale		1965 Small scale		1965 Total	
		Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers
1	2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Gins and presses	27	3 182	25	3,774	..	..	25	3,774
2	Manufacture of grain mill products ..	1	24	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Manufacture of miscellaneous food preparations	13	716	5	421	9	276	14	697
4	Cordage, rope and twine industries ..	..	..	..	..	1	25	1	25
5	Printing, book-binding, etc.	1	19	..	..	1	31	1	31
6	Non-metallic mineral products	7	195	..	..	6	138	6	138
7	Manufacture and repair of motor vehicles ..	3	62	1	52	2	56	3	108
8	Electric light and powers	1	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	53	4,208	31	4,247	19	526	50	4,773

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

A—Banking and Finance

INTRODUCTION

The oldest institution engaged in the disbursement of finance is that of the indigenous bankers who played a pivotal role in meeting the financial requirements of local inhabitants. Before the advent of the modern banking system, this institution was the only source of credit to which people looked in times of distress or social occasions. In the absence of any alternative means of securing finance the indigenous money-lender played and still plays a very important role in the rural economy of the country.

In modern times, finance is an important factor in the agro-industrial growth of an area, a broad idea of which can be had by reviewing the work of agencies providing credit to farmers, traders, industrialists and others in the district. These are indigenous money-lenders, co-operative credit societies and banks, joint stock banks and corporations formed by Government. They mobilise the savings of the public and canalise them into different productive activities. There are also the insurance companies whose main business is to collect the savings of the people in the form of premia and invest them in interest yielding securities or contribute to the capital requirements of industries by investing money in shares or debentures Private and public limited companies also attract savings of the public in the form of share capital and deposits, etc , and utilise them in different productive activities. The State also plays a significant role in the financial sphere by floating loans and promoting small savings for financing developmental plans and other Government activities Life Insurance Corporation and various other corporations, both in the public and private sectors have been playing an important part in developing the financial structure of the State and the country. The part played by each of these agencies is reviewed in the pages that follow.

MONEY-LENDERS

Continuance of the age-old private institution of money-lending amidst the big financial agencies set up by the Government, both Central and State, and the co-operative and commercial banks for both agriculture and industry, is a sufficient indication about the importance of this institution in the field of finance, especially in the rural areas. In the rural areas particularly, which are predominantly inhabited by tribal pepole, money-lenders still occupy a crucial position. This will be evident from the following extracts from the former *Gazetteer on Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi*

Kantha, (1880),[1] which in its portion relating to Mahi kantha Agency areas observes :

"Brahmans, Vanias, Bohoras and Craftsmen in towns and large villages, and Vanias and Bohoras in the rural parts of the district are able to save. Craftsmen as a rule spend almost all their savings on their great family ceremonies, but the Brahmans, Vanias and Bohoras, after meeting all charges, are still able to add to their capital. The few rich cultivators generally increase their earnings by lending money. Brahmans invest their savings in ornaments, in house building, in money-lending, in trade, and in buying land and houses. Vanias and Bohoras dispose of their saving in buying ornaments, in house building, and in trade and Vanias and Brahmans to small extent, in making advances to cultivators."

"When a cultivator owes money to several creditors, he, who advanced money for seed, is held to have the first claim on the debtor's crops Debtors are seldom imprisoned for the non-payment of their debts. None of the Mahi Kantha courts ever order the sale of land in liquidation of debt, and among cultivators land sales are only occasionally made. When a money-lender makes an advance, he generally insists on receiving in mortgage some of the debtor's property, such as his cattle or house. When land is mortgaged, it generally remains with the mortgager who makes over to the mortgagee a portion of the produce. The practice of mortgaging land has not of late years increased. Civil courts are little used for enforcing the payment of debts, and their decrees never go further than selling the debtor's house and movable property. Between a cultivator and a money-lender, the usual agreement is that the money-lender is the first to be paid out of the crop. In villages inhabited by the poorer classes, such as Kolis and Bhils, tillage generally depends on the money-lender's capital. These cultivators admit the money-lender's usefulness, but complain of the hardness of his terms. Neither cultivators nor artisans have intelligence enough to prevent the money-lender from bringing false claims and extorting oppressive rates of interest. The indebtedness of poor Bhil and Koli cultivators in many cases leads to crime."

"Sometimes a labourer raises money by mortgaging his labour for four or five years. The bondsman's services are valued at from £2 8s. to £6 (Rs. 24-60) a year. And for an advance of £10 (Rs. 100) many men would be willing to serve for any time up to five years. In cases where the labourer engages to supply loads of grass or firewood, he is allowed to work at odd times for his own benefit, but if a man has mortgaged his labour without reservation, the whole of

[1] Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880), pp. 373-74.

his earnings are his master's. In no case does the money-lender's claim extend to the labour of the bondsman's wife or child. Men in the position of these labourers are fed and housed by their masters. But the master does not meet the cost of a birth or other ceremony in the bondsman's family. The master cannot make over his right to any other person, and cannot by corporal punishment or other means enforce the bondman's services."

"The old system of hereditary service is still kept up in the houses of some Rajput and Koli chiefs. The servants called boys (*Chhokra*) and girls (*Chhokri*), are with their families bred and maintained in their masters house at his expense. They are generally faithful to their masters. No instance is known of one of these servants being tempted by the chance of good wages to leave his master. As far as food, clothes and lodging go, they are better off than other families of the same class."

"The yearly rate of interest varies from four and a half to fifty per cent. In small transactions where an article is given in pawn, it varies from four and a half to nine per cent; in large transactions with a mortgage on movable property, it is six per cent; in transactions with a mortgage on houses or lands from six to nine per cent; in petty agricultural advances, upon personal security from twelve to eighteen per cent; and in advances of grain with a lien on the crops from twenty-five to fifty per cent. Six per cent a year would be considered a fair return for money invested in buying an estate. Interest is charged by the month, according to the Hindu year, and in years with an intercalary month, it is charged for thirteen months instead of for twelve."

It is important to note that besides land, ornaments, cattle, etc., human labour was also mortgaged with the money-lenders. The borrower had thus to serve the money-lender (creditor) for a period of four to five years. It is also evident from the above that for certain backward tribes, *e. g.*, Kolis, Bhils, etc., the money-lender was the only source of finance. Another important fact revealed by the extract is that on account of the usurious practices of the money-lenders, indebtedness grew up among the poor classes which sometimes induced them to resort to crimes.

The situation does not seem to have improved to any appreciable degree even after the lapse of nearly forty years, for the account of money-lenders given in the Mahikantha Directory published in 1922, does not differ much in essence from the one given in the old Gazetteer of 1880 quoted above.[1] Similar conditions prevailed more or less till Independence.

1. MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, (DEPUTY POLITICAL AGENT), *Mahi Kantha Directory* Vol. I, 1922, pp. 29 to 31.

because large number of States and Estates in the Mahikantha Agency, which now form the major part of the present Sabarkantha district were economically and culturally much more backward than the rest of the British Indian territory. They did very little to check the usurious practices of the money-lenders. On account of the backwardness of the region, there was practically no industry worth the name and hence no financial institutions which could advance finance could be established. In such circumstances, poor peasants were left completely at the mercy of the money-lenders. Improvident and ignorant as they were, they fell an easy prey to the usurious practices of the money-lenders. In order to remedy the situation, Government undertook measures to provide institutional finance for agriculture and to regulate money-lending by enacting the Bombay Money-lenders Act in 1946 with a view to checking the usurious and fraudlent practices of money-lenders, *e. g.*, demand of advance interest, taking of thumb impression on a blank paper with a view to inserting in written documents sums far in excess of money actually lent, obtaining conditional sale-deeds in order to provide safeguards against possible evasion of payment by the debtor, etc. Under the law, the money-lender is expected to dispense credit on principles of social justice so far as the debtor is concerned. It is also intended to have some educative value, the main object being to protect the debtor from the consequences of his reckless borrowings.

The main provisions of the Act relate to the licencing and the registration of money-lenders, maintenance of accounts in prescribed forms, furnishing of receipts and statement of accounts to the debtors and the fixation of rates of interest on loans.

This Act was applied to the Sabarkantha district in 1950. But in the Modasa and Prantij talukas which were formerly included in the Ahmedabad district, the provisions of the Act were applied in 1947.

The following statement gives an idea about the working of money-lenders in the district.

STATEMENT VI·1

Money-lenders and their Loan Operations

(RUPEES IN LAKHS)

Sl. No.	Particulars	1953-54	1960-61	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1	Number of licenced money-lenders ..	916	900	894	892	882	837	884
2	Loans to traders (Rs.)	13.10	5.46	3.64	3.72	1.72	1.11	1.28
3	Loans to non-traders (Rs.) ..	44.24	58.73	100.71	121.59	106.80	123.66	98.19
	Total loans advanced (Rs.) ..	**57.34**	**64.19**	**104.35**	**125.31**	**108.52**	**124.77**	**99.47**

Source :

Co-operative Officer, Money-lending, Himatnagar.

It is apparent from the above statement that during the period from 1953 to 1969 there was no appreciable decrease in the number of licenced money-lenders. The decline noticed is in respect of their advances to the trading community which declined from Rs. 13·10 lakhs in 1953-54 to Rs. 1·28 lakhs in 1969. However, their finance to non-traders inclusive of agriculturists have increased from Rs. 44·24 lakhs to Rs. 98.18 lakhs during this period. This shows that the main recipients of the loans were the non-trading classes which included mostly agriculturists and other backward classes. These facts indicate that the money-lenders are still a force to reckon with in the field of farm finance.

The impact of the legislation is not felt much in this district, because of the predominance of the tribal population. This is corroborated by the *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project* which observes, "It will not be wrong to assume that in the Adivasi area, the loan advances may be utilised mostly for unproductive purposes. During 1961-62, the percentage of advances made by money-lenders to agriculturists formed 46 per cent of the total agricultural credit supplied by various institutions, as against 0·8 per cent by the Government, 27 per cent by co-operative societies and 27 per cent by the Land Mortgage Bank".[1]

Further the village survey monograph for the Abhapur village (Vijaynagar taluka)[2] of the district published by 1961 Census discloses certain facts about the position of money-lenders. This village is largely inhabited by the tribal population. The survey about their economic condition disclosed that the people were indebted to the tune of 89·69 per cent of the total credit to the Vohra traders-*cum*-money-lenders. Co-operative societies provided 7·23 per cent and Government only 3·08 per cent of the total credit requirements of the people. Despite the strict vigilance of the Government, illicit money-lending to some extent is still prevalent in the district, especially in the backward areas inhabited by the Adivasis. Even at present *vatav* (discount) at the rate of 6 to 10 per cent is charged by the money-lenders, which is seldom accounted for. In a majority of cases, rates charged are higher than those prescribed under the law. These methods are so tactfully employed that they are difficult to detect. In order to prevent the malpractice especially in the backward areas, Government have of late taken steps to strengthen the Co-operative Department at various levels. It is felt that the evils connected with money-lending will be minimised.

Agricultural Indebtedness—It is a well-known fact that Indian farmers were heavily in debt in the past and that agriculturists in the Sabarkantha district were no exception. Unfortunately no statistics, official or otherwise

1. PATEL G. D. (DR.), *Report on the Sabarkantha Field Study Project*, (1964), p. 135.
2. TRIVEDI R. K., *Census of India*, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, (1969), p. 34.

are available to show the extent of their indebtedness. Looking to the poor economic condition of the peasantry as also powerful ... traders-*cum*-money-lenders in the structure of rural finance, it could safely be presumed that the farmers of the district were generally indebted. No concrete steps were taken to check the usurious and fraudulent practices of these traders-*cum*-money-lenders.[1] The Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1939 was applied to the newly constituted Sabarkantha district from December, 1948. After the application of the Act, 6,241 applications involving an amount of Rs. 3,287,845 were received. A majority of these applications were made by the creditors who were very eager to get what they could from their debtor-cultivators. Thus the agriculturists in the district did not avail themselves of the benefits of the Act.

To lessen the influence of the traders-*cum*-money-lenders on the agriculturists, the Government have strengthened the co-operative sector and also placed strict restrictions on the usurious activities of the money-lenders. Despite these measures, indebtedness among the agriculturists is wide-spread in the district. This will be evident from the socio-economic survey of the Abhapur[2] village conducted by the 1961 Census. It reveals (i) that out of 42 households in the village, 80·95 per cent were sunk in debt, (ii) that their total indebtedness amounted to Rs. 6,817, (iii) that 90·86 per cent of the debt was for unproductive purposes such as domestic consumption, marriage and other ceremonies, and (iv) that 9.14 per cent only was utilised for productive purposes like farm expenses, purchase of bullocks, improvement of land, etc. As regards the sources of finance, the survey discloses that the Vohra traders provided almost 89·69 per cent, co-operative societies 7·23 per cent and Government only 3·08 per cent of the total credit. It brings out that the traders, who also acted as money-lenders, occupied a coveted place in the structure of the rural finance. It is now realised that the farmers should be first extricated from the clutches of these village traders-*cum*-money-lenders by offering them alternative avenues of securing necessary finance. For this purpose, vigorous steps are being taken to strengthen and popularise the co-operative movement. Strict regulations have been imposed on the activities of the money-lenders under the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946. The nationalised commercial banks would also provide easy credit to the farmers. These measures will help agriculturists to free themselves from the bondage of indebtedness in course of time.

Joint Stock Banks

The joint stock banks play a very important role in the economic development of a region. They collect the saving from the public in the form of deposits and lend money for use in the different sectors of economy.

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1 However, in the former Idar State, some restrictions were placed on Bania Money-lenders by which they were prohibited from purchasing property of the agriculturists.

2. Trivedi R. K., *Census of India*, 1961, Gujarat, *Village Survey Monograph, Abhapur*, (1969), pp. 33-34.

As already seen, the Sabarkantha district was and it still is one of the economically backward districts in the State. The portion bordering on the Rajasthan is somewhat hilly and abounds in tribal population. Most of the erstwhile States, which now form the part of the district, were culturally and economically backward. There was very little of trade and industry which could attract any financial institution like the commercial banks. The Idar State, which was the only class I State in the former Mahi Kantha Agency, had established its own 'State Bank' as far back as 1884. This attempt on the part of the State did not succeed much. The people were so much under the influence of the money-lenders that they did not avail of the banking facilities provided by the State as will be evident from the following extract.

> "In order to keep the Sardars and Bhumias and Rayats also as much out of the money-lenders' hands as possible, a State Bank was set on foot two years ago from which advances are made at low rate of interest but strange to say, very few indeed of those classes for whose benefit it was intended have taken advantage of it. They are probably dissuaded from doing so by interested persons, possibly the very ones to whom they are already indebted, who exaggerate the consequence of being indebted to the State."[1] It was but natural that under such circumstances, the bank died a 'natural death' in 1886-87.[2]

Thus the industrial backwardness as also the predominant position of the money-lenders in the unorganised capital market in the past were some of the factors which deterred the growth of the banking institutions in the district.

Even after Independence, the progress of the branch expansion of the joint stock banks was very slow. Till 1955 there was only one branch of the Punjab National Bank, which started functioning at Himatnagar in 1951.[3] As no other commercial bank came forward to open its branch offices in the district due to its backwardness, the Government took the initiative and opened four branches of the State Bank of India at Idar, Modasa, Prantij and Himatnagar. Thus, till 1960-61, there were only five offices of the commercial banks to cater to the banking needs of the people.

After the formation of the Gujarat State, expansion of commercial banking facilities is, however, most spectacular. Other scheduled banks like

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1. *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State* for the year 1885-86.

2. *Ibid.*, 1886-87.

3. However, the Bharat Bank (Head Office, Delhi) with its branch at Himatnagar established in 1943 should be considered pioneer in the commercial banking field. Further details about the bank are not available, but the Punjab National Bank which acquired the ownership of the Bharat Bank in 1951, started functioning at Himatnagar from 1951.

the Dena Bank, the Union Bank of India, the Central Bank of India, etc., were attracted to open their branches in the district. As a result, by the end of 1969, there were 17 branches in the district. The following statement gives an idea about the growth of the commercial banking in the district till 31st December, 1969.

Growth of Joint Stock Banks in Sabarkantha District

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Location	Year of opening
1	2	3	4
1	Punjab National Bank	Himatnagar	1951
2	State Bank of India	Himatnagar	1956
3	State Bank of India	Modasa	1957
4	State Bank of India	Idar	1957
5	State Bank of India	Prantij	1960
6	Bank of Baroda	Talod	1963
7	State Bank of India	Sathamba	1965
8	State Bank of India	Khedbrahma	1965
9	Bank of Baroda	Dhansura	1967
10	Bank of Baroda	Bayad	1967
11	Bank of Baroda	Vadali	1968
12	Dena Bank	Modasa	1968
13	Central Bank of India	Idar	1969
14	Central Bank of India	Demai	1969
15	Union Bank of India	Gabat	1969
16	Union Bank of India	Himatnagar	1969
17	State Bank of India	Bayad	1969

The statement reveals that, of the total number of branches, 7 were of the State Bank of India alone (including its pay offices). Further, Himatnagar being the district headquarters was served by three branches.

Deposits—The main function of the banking institutions is to attract deposits from the public at attractive rates and feed the needy sectors for

raising output or for expanding business. The extent of deposits collected by them is given below.

Deposits of Joint Stock Banks

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES

Sl. No.	Type of Deposits	1967 No. of Accounts	1967 Amount (Rs.)	1969 No. of Accounts	1969 Amount (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Fixed	2,851	8,744	3,830	12,442
2	Current	909	2,286	1,557	3,868
3	Savings	6,191	3,678	9,794	6,219
4	Other	244	170	430	631
	Total	10,195	14,878	15,611	23,160

The broad trends revealed by the statement are as follows : The number of accounts increased by over 50 per cent in 1969, when the deposit mobilisation rose by 55·67 per cent. This is due to the expansion of banking facilities as also banking-mindedness of its people. Predominance of the fixed deposits over other types of deposits is apparent. These were 58·77 per cent and 53·72 per cent of the total deposits in the years 1967 and 1969 respectively. The savings deposits followed next and claimed 24·72 and 26·85 per cent respectively.

Advances—Another important function of the joint stock banks is to increase money circulation by providing advances to the different sectors of the economy. Instead of keeping money dormant in the banks' valet, they are allowed to multiply by means of credit facilities to trade, commerce and industry. Till recently, these banks were quite reluctant to make advances to agriculture and a lion's share of their funds went to a few big industrial houses and commercial firms. It was neither desirable nor in conformity with the accepted ideology of nation's economic policy that such important sectors as agriculture and small industry should be neglected by the important financing agencies. Government, therefore, imposed "Social Control" in 1968. However, fourteen major Indian joint stock banks were nationalised in 1969 by introducing a suitable legislation in the Parliament. This is a landmark in the economic history of the nation. It has brought about far-reaching changes in the lending pattern of the commercial banks. The following figures show the impact the nationalisation had on the banks' advances in the district.

Pattern of Advances

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Year ended 1967			Year ended 1969		
		No. of Accounts	Amount (Rs.)	Percentage to total Advances	No. of Accounts	Amount (Rs.)	Percentage to total Advances
1	Industry	8	120	5.93	32	1,454	12.01
2	Commerce	35	1,213	59.99	108	3,637	30.05
3	Agriculture ..	..	..	..	438	4,379	36.18
4	Personal and Professional	71	647	32.00	147	1,020	8.43
5	Others	10	42	2.08	61	1,614	13.33
	Total	**124**	**2 022**	**100.00**	**786**	**12,104**	**100.00**

Advances in 1969 were nearly six times higher in comparision to the year 1967. It is probably due to the increase in the number of branches of the banks in the district in 1969. Further, almost two-third of the advances in 1967 were claimed by commerce and industry alone, and no finance was provided for agriculture. But after nationalisation as much as 36·18 per cent of the banks' funds were invested in agriculture. Thus, advances to commercial sector in 1969 were almost 50 per cent lower as compared to 1967. Personal and professional advances have also suffered heavily. Those to industries inclusive of the small-scale sector have risen from 5·93 per cent in 1967 to 12·01 per cent in 1969, reflecting the modern trend in respect of advances to the small-scale industries as well.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND BANKS

Prior to Independence, the district was divided into a number of princely States and Estates, most of which were economically and culturally too backward to take any initiative for introduction of the co-operative movement in their respective areas. The people, inhabiting the land, particularly Adivasis were too ignorant and improvident to manage their economic affairs. The co-operative movement, therefore, was very little known in most parts of the district. However, in Modasa and Prantij talukas, which fromed part of the former Ahmedabad district, the Co-operative Credit Societies Act, 1904 was in force, and the first co-operative society was registered in 1906 at the Poglu village of the Prantij taluka. Unfortunately, the data showing the growth of co-operative movement in the district till Independence are not available. But it can safely be assumed that no serious efforts were made to introduce the

co-operative movement before 1947. After integration of the States and Estates, the pace of movement was accelerated. The Co-operative Societies Act was applied to the entire district. By 1950-51 there were 95 societies of different types, of which 65 were agricultural credit societies. Under the Five Year Plans launched in India since 1951, large amounts have been earmarked and spent for the development of the co-operative movement. Though the progress during the First Plan was not very much striking, the achievements during the subsequent plans have been remarkable. The number of societies rose from 95 in 1950-51 to 546 in 1960-61, 697 in 1965-66 and further to 749 in 1969-70. Thus the period of the Second Five Year Plan is most important from the view point of development of co-operative societies in the district. The number of credit societies also rose from 139 in 1955-56 to 513 in 1969-70. Till 1959 the Bombay State Co-operative Bank Ltd., functioned as the apex bank in this district through its branches. But from 1959, the Sabarkantha District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., was started as the central financing agency for the district. This provided additional impetus to the growth of the movement. Moreover, the concept of service co-operatives introduced during the Second Plan period has widened the scope of the co-operative movement. In addition to disbursing credit to the members, these societies also undertake sale of agricultural tools and implements, seeds and fertilisers, etc. Consumers' Co-operatives have helped economically poor sections of the society by supplying consumption articles of daily use at fair and reasonable prices. Due to the rapid strides that the co-operative movement has made in recent years, it is difficult to find any activity where the concept of self and collective help has not succeeded and includes besides the primary sector, housing, forests, dairy development, labour and labour contract, leather and tanning, poultry, etc. But in the context of economic development emphasis is mainly laid on the credit societies-agricultural as well as non-agricultural.

Agricultural Credit Societies—These societies occupy the most important plank in the co-operative structure obtaining at present. In fact the movement was introduced to solve the problem of rural finance in the first instance. Thus, out of 749 co-operative societies registered in the district, 471 or nearly 63 per cent were agricultural credit societies in 1969-70. In order to make them more useful to agriculturists, it was decided in 1959 to diversify their activities by converting most of them into service co-operatives.

The statistics given in the Statement VI·2 disclose that there is an appreciable increase in the operations of the agricultural credit societies. Their number, membership, share capital, working capital, advances, deposits and reserve and other funds have maintained a steady growth during the last 15 years. The rise in the working capital from Rs. 22·92 lakhs in 1955-56 to Rs. 691·24 lakhs in 1969-70 is most spectacular. Similarly advances granted by them rose from Rs. 21·09 lakhs to Rs. 506·94

lakhs during the same period. However, with the expansion of the activities, the recovery position has become difficult. Due to a succession of lean years the societies were called upon to render liberal financial assistance to the cultivators. Overdues have, therefore, risen from Rs. 0·57 lakhs in 1955-56 to Rs. 41·34 lakhs in 1969-70.

Non-agricultural Credit Societies—The urban co-operative banks, urban credit societies, thrift and credit societies, salary earners' societies, etc., are included in this group. They are usually situated in the urban and semi-urban centres and cater to the credit requirements of their members comprising small traders, artisans, salary earners, etc. The urban co-operative banks are becoming popular day by day. In 1969-70, there were six such banks in the district. Their progress in terms of figures was as follows: Membership rose from 138 to 2,957, the working capital from Rs. 2,59,000 to Rs. 74,89,000, deposits from Rs. 2,12,000 to Rs. 53,69,000 and loan advances from Rs. 77,000 to Rs. 60,99,000 between 1955-56 and 1969-70.

The Statement VI·2 that follows gives an idea about the working of the non-agricultural credit societies also, wherein a similar trend of progress has been noticed. The rise in the working funds and the loan advances has been noteworthy. From Rs. 340 lakhs, their working capital rose to Rs. 113·45 lakhs and advances from Rs. 1·42 lakhs to 106·27 lakhs during 1955-56 to 1969-70. It is important to note that the pace of progress of these societies was much accelerated after the formation of Gujarat State in 1960.

STATEMENT VI·2

Working of Credit Societies-Agricultural and Non-Agricultural -in the District 1955-56 to 1969-70

(IN THOUSAND Rs.)

Year	No. of societies	No. of members	Paid-up capital (Rs.)	⁕Working capital (Rs.)	Loans advanced (Rs.)	Overdues	Deposits	Reserve and other funds (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A—Agricultural Credit Societies								
1955-56 ..	129	14,244	579	2,292	2,109	57	768	313
1960-61 ..	406	45,965	3,512	11,377	10,956	932	904	807
1965-66 ..	486	73,494	7,663	29,675	21,442	2,566	2,087	4,159
1966-67 ..	488	77,000	8,754	35,212	26,314	2,798	2,175	4,505
1967-68 ..	495	82,295	10,687	35,629	28,779	4,966	2,327	2,707
1968-69 ..	484	83,940	11,902	52,440	41,844	7,109	2,585	3,284
1969-70 ..	471	90,358	14,322	69,124	50,694	4,134	3,720	4,215
B—Non-Agricultural Credit Societies								
1955-56 ..	10	955	88	340	142	.	231	9
1960-61 ..	18	2,047	222	816	598	.	486	20
1965-66 ..	35	6,437	1,207	4,816	4,613	8	2,977	74
1966-67 ..	35	6,000	1,529	6,133	6,438	11	5,631	164
1967-68 ..	36	7,870	1,897	7,053	6,034	10	4,160	262
1968-69 ..	38	8,971	2,404	8,997	6,190	29	4,986	375
1969-70 ..	42	9,693	2,937	11,345	10,627	37	5,860	486

Source :

District Registrar, Co-operation and Marketing, Ahmedabad.

The Sabarkantha District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.

The District Central Co-operative Bank occupies an important place in the co-operative structure, as it is the central financing agency to which the member societies look for finance. Prior to 1960, the Bombay State Co-operative Bank was doing the work of the central financing agency in this district. In 1949, this bank opened its first branch at Himatnagar. Subsequently, its branches were opened at Talod in 1950, at Modasa in 1951, at Idar in 1958 and at Khedbrahma in 1959. In accordance with the policy laid down by the Reserve Bank of India to start District Central Co-operative Bank for each district, the Sabarkantha District Central Co-operative Bank was registered in April, 1959 but it began to function from 1st January, 1960.

Since its inception, the bank has made a vigorous efforts to expand its operational base by opening branches at important places in the district. As a result, by the end of 1970-71, besides the head office at Himatnagar, it had 31 branches which covered all the taluka and mahal headquarter places and other important centres in the district.

The bank provides short term finance to the primary societies for raising crops and medium term loans for the purchase of bullocks, carts, pumping sets, electrical motors, etc. It also grants cash credits to the consumer stores, industrial co-operative societies, processing societies and the urban co-operative banks, to enable them to make liberal advances to their members. Similarly it also provides accommodative loans to housing co-operative societies for construction of residential buildings.

Within a short period of eleven years *i. e.*, 1960-1971, the bank has achieved commendable progress. It has played a very important role in the field of agricultural finance. This will be evident from the following statistics which are self-explanatory. During this period, its membership rose from 597 to 936; paid-up capital from Rs. 17·55 lakhs to Rs. 89·74 lakhs, reserve and other funds from Rs. 0·10 lakhs to Rs. 24·65 lakhs, deposits from Rs. 59·90 lakhs to Rs. 355·86 lakhs and advances including cash credits from Rs. 174·34 lakhs to Rs. 1,575·63 lakhs. The position of recoveries was not always satisfactory during this period, and with large increase in the advances, the overdues had also increased considerably. From Rs. 0·03 lakh in 1060-61 overdues increased to Rs. 32·83 lakhs in 1970-71 on account of recurring scarcity and famine conditions in the district, when bank's advances had to be stepped up steadily and substantially.

SAVINGS COLLECTIONS

Small Savings

Small savings play an important role in the financing of the development schemes initiated under the Five Year Plans as also in checking inflationary

spiral by withdrawing excess purchasing power from the people. They also reveal the bold attempt on the part of even a common man to have a share in nation's uplift, whose part of the income is diverted in the small savings banks, which offer him facility of depositing even small amounts. After Independence, the Government of India has introduced a wide range of securities which help realise attractive amounts on maturity. The gross collections from the district between 1966-67 and 1970-71 under the different types were .

1. 12-years National Defence Certificates Rs. 1·60 crores.

2. Post Office Savings Banks Rs 2·54 crores.

3. Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme Rs. 45·00 lakhs.

4. The Time deposits and Recurring deposits have been introduced recently in the post offices and their collection amounted to Rs. 16·76 lakhs in 1969-70 and 1970-71.

No amount has been collected under the 10-years Defence Deposit Certificates during this period.[1]

Insurance

Insurance is another avenue open for the public to invest a part of their incomes. Premium amounts are collected on different types of policies, providing certain guarantees to the persons insured in the event of calamities. In India, since 1956, the life insurance business has been nationalised and the Life Insurance Corporation of India is the foremost and largest agency doing life insurance business in the country. But the general insurance business which includes fire, marine, accident, etc., was kept open to private enterprize till May, 1971 when it was also nationalised by the Government of India.

In the organisational and administrative set-up of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the Sabarkantha district is placed under the jurisdiction of the Ahmedabad Division. The number of agents canvassing life and general insurance business in the district numbered 484 in 1970-71. From 1966-67 to 1970-71, the Corporation issued in the district 32,159 life insurance policies valued at Rs. 17 crores. The total premia collected during this period amounted to Rs. 3·54 crores. Similarly, the General Insurance Department of the Corporation issued 528 policies in the district, during the last four years (1967-68 to 1970-71) and collected

1. Regional Director of Small Savings, Ahmedabad.

Rs. 35,945 by way of premium. It is expected that with the recent nationalisation of the general insurance, the business of the General Insurance Department will increase considerably.

Public and Private Limited Companies

Private and public limited companies play an important role in attracting savings to finance diverse economic activities such as manufacturing, trading, transport and the like for which they may be organised.

The Sabarkantha district is one of the economically backward districts in the State. By the end of 1970, the number of companies registered in the district was three of which one was a public limited company with a paid-up capital of Rs. 54,300 functioning at Talod and the remaining two were private limited companies functioning at Modasa. Their paid-up capital was Rs. 11,000 as on 31st December, 1970.

ASSISTANCE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Industrial development depends on a number of factors. Provision of adequate finance to industries is perhaps the man bottle-neck in achieving the balanced growth of a region. Unless sufficient money is poured in and technical advice tendered in right earnest, growth of industries would be extremely slow. To help tide over these difficulties, institutional finance is encouraged in the country since Independence. For this purpose, various institutions have been established in the country for public and private sectors. The purpose of their constitution and the extent of monetary assistance provided by each of them in the Sabarkantha district are briefly reviewed below.

The Gujarat Small Industries Corporation, Ahmedabad—The Corporation was incorporated as a public limited company in March, 1962, with an authorised capital of Rs. 50 lakhs. The aim of the Corporation is to assist, promote and protect interests of small-scale industries in the State, to provide technical and managerial assistance and help in procurement of raw materials, machinery, equipment, tools and appliances needed in the establishment of industries. It assists small industries by (1) providing raw materials, (2) importing in bulk against actual users' import licences held by small-scale units, (3) supplying machinery on hire-purchase basis, and (4) marketing their products.

Till 1970-71, the Corporation delivered machinery on hire-purchase basis to the extent of Rs. 13,925 to two industrial units in the district.

The Gujarat State Financial Corporation, Ahmedabad—This is one of the important agencies catering to the credit requirements of small and

large industries in the State. It was established in 1960 with a view to providing financial accommodation to the industries for enabling them to acquire capital and productive assets like land, building, plant and machinery for expansion, renovation or modernisation. Such loans are granted usually for a period of 7 to 10 years. Moreover, from 1970 the work of granting the loans under the State Aid to Small-Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935 has been taken over by the Corporation from the Director of Industries, Gujarat State. The Corporation grants loans upto Rs 10 lakhs. However, in the case of registered co-operative societies and public limited companies, the Corporation is authorised to consider loan applications upto Rs. 20 lakhs. Over and above cash loans, the Corporation has lately started providing assistance in the form of underwriting the issues and deferred payment guarantees for the purchase of capital goods from all over India.

An important feature of the assistance provided by the Corporation is that it gives special attention for the development of small-scale industries and industries in the economically backward areas in the State and provides financial assistance at concessional rates in such areas. The Sabarkantha district is one of the nine districts in the State declared backward by the Planning Commission.

Till 1970-71, the Corporation sanctioned Rs. 47·88 lakhs to 77 industries in the district, of which a majority were small-scale.

The Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, Ahmedabad—This Corporation was established in 1962 for development of industrial estates and areas in the State. It encourages the growth of industries by establishing and managing industrial estates, and undertakes scheme of industrial advancement, either jointly with the State Government or local bodies or on an agency basis. An industrial estate constructed by the Government at a cost of Rs. 1·91 lakhs at Himatnagar in this district was handed over to this Corporation from January, 1970.

The Gujarat State Industrial Investment Corporation, Ahmedabad—The Gujarat State Industrial Investment Corporation came into existence as a public limited company in August, 1968, with a share capital of Rs. 10 crores for promoting new ventures and new lines of manufacture. The main function of the Corporation is to encourage creation, expansion and modernisation of industrial concerns in the State and to provide medium and long term loans to them for a period ranging from 8 to 12 years to help them achieve a strong footing. The underlying object for the creation of this body is to channelise investments of various financing agencies and help new industries in the State, which need finance. It assists the industries by (i) capital participation in the form of equity and preference shares. (ii) sponsoring and underwriting of new issues of shares and securities,

(iii) providing medium and long term loans and (iv) capital participation in co-operation with the joint-stock banks and other financial institutions like the Gujarat State Financial Corporation (GSFC), the Gujarat Small Industries Corporation, (GSIC), the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, (GIDC), etc.

Another important aspect of the Corporation is that it also provides financial assistance to the competent technicians to the extent of Rs. 2 lakhs individually and upto Rs. 3 lakhs to the partnership concerns for the purchase of land, buildings, machinery and other fixed assets. Moreover, it provides financial assistance in collaboration with the Gujarat Small Industries Corporation and the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, for the construction of rural workshops in the State, for undertaking repairs to tractors, oil-engines, pumps and other agricultural implements and accessories so as to promote agricultural development.

In this district, till March 1971, the Corporation provided financial assistance in the following manner : Rs. 365,000 to four industrial units engaged in quarry works, hume-pipes and tiles, ice factory and cement pipes, Rs. 101,500 to technicians and Rs. 100,000 for building rural workshops.

Other Agencies

The following all-India institutions cater to the needs of large-scale industries in the country. These are : (i) the Industrial Finance Corporation, New Delhi, (ii) the National Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi, (iii) the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, Bombay, and (iv) the Industrial Development Bank, Bombay. These institutions also advance medium and long-term loans to industries in public and private sectors. The purposes for which they are constituted and the extent of finance provided by them to the industrial units in the Sabarkantha district are narrated below.

(i) *The Industrial Finance Corporation of India, New Delhi*--This Corporation was created in 1948 by the Government of India under a Parliamentary enactment, to provide medium and long-term finance to industries promoted by public limited companies and co-operative societies. The Corporation provides financial assistance to industries engaged in the manufacture, preservation or processing of goods, or in shipping, mining and generation or distribution of electrical or any other form of power. However, no industrial unit in Sabarkantha district has obtained loans from this Corporation till 1970-71.

(ii) *The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, Bombay*--This Corporation was established in 1955 as a privately owned financial institution to encourage and assist private industrial investment

in India. It advances loans to industries in the private sector only. These loans are secured either against the assets of the company or guaranteed by banks or insurance companies.

No industrial unit in the district has so far availed of the facilities provided by the Corporation till June, 1970.

(iii) *The National Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi*—This Corporation was started by the Government of India as a Government-owned private limited company in 1954. It is authorised to start new industries with Government money in spheres where the size of capital required or the risks involved deter private capital. It also secures foreign technical collaboration in preparing project reports concerning new industries. No industrial unit in this district has availed of facilities provided by this Corporation till 1969.

(iv) *The Industrial Development Bank, Bombay*—The Industrial Development Bank of India was established in 1964 as an apex all-India institution to co-ordinate the activities of other financial institutions, to provide direct financial assistance to industrial units and to bridge the gap between the supply of and demand for medium and long term finance. As a subsidiary to the Reserve Bank of India, the Industrial Development Bank took over the functions of the Refinance Corporation for Industry Ltd., from September, 1964. It provides (i) refinance to a large number of financial institutions and (2) direct financial assistance to industrial concerns in the form of loans and advances, subscribing, purchasing or underwriting issues of stocks, shares, bonds or debentures, guaranteeing deferred payments due from industrial concerns to third parties and loans raised by them in the open market or from other financial institutions. However, no industry in this district has availed of the financial assistance from the Bank till June, 1970.

CURRENCY AND COINAGE

Prior to the advent of British in the former Mahikantha areas in 1812, the Baroda currency, *i. e.*, *babashahi* and *sicca* rupees were legal tender.[1] However, after the advent of the British, the Baroda currency was gradually replaced by the British (Imperial) currency in terms of rupees, annas and pies and in the latter part of the 19th century, this currency was legal tender in most of the Mahi Kanta Agency areas. This will be evident from the

1. It will be interesting to note that Ahmednagar now called Himatnagar was the second mint town in Gujarat, first being Ahmedabad. From this (Ahmednagar) mint, a large quantity of copper coins was issued during the rule of Sultan Ahmed Shah I, who founded Ahmednagar in 1427 A. D. Not a single coin, dated or otherwise, was issued from this mint after his death. (See *History of Gujarat*, Part I by Commissariat M. S., p. 120).

following extract given in former, *Gazetteer of the Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*" published in 1880.

"In most part of the district, the Imperial rupee is the standard in common dealings In some places, Baroda *babashahi* and *sicca* rupees are also in use. In transactions carried on in Government rupees, discount is allowed according of current rates."[1]

In 1900 A. D., the *babashahi* rupee was suspended from use and withdrawn in accordance with the arrangements made with the Gaekwar. While doing this, the exchange rate fixed was 130 *Babashahi* rupees for 100 Imperial rupees. Thus, after 1900 onwards, British currency consisting of rupees, annas and pies was the only legal tender in the entire Mahi Kantha Agency areas. This position continued till 1947.

Even after 1947, the former currency system of the pre-Independence days was continued. The Imperial marks on the coins and currency notes were replaced by replica of the national emblem (lion and disc) carved on the Maurya Emperor Ashok pillar at Sarnath.

Decimal Coinage

A sort of a revolutionary change was brought about in the currency system of the country in April, 1957, when, the decimal system of coinage was introduced.[2] For sometimes both the old and the new coins remained in circulation in the country till the former were progressively withdrawn. In the old system, 1 rupee was equal to sixty-four paise or 192 pies, while in the decimal system of coinage, one rupee is equal to a hundred paise. At present, the coinage is issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 paise. The currency notes are issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10. 20, 100 and 1,000 rupees.

B—Trade and Commerce

In order to have a proper perspective of the conditions of trade in the Sabarkantha district, it is necessary to have an idea of the former course of trade in the past. A review of the conditions of trade and commerce which obtained in the district prior to the merger is briefly stated below.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 374.

2. It will be of great interest to learn that in June 1945, the Government of India issued a communique suggesting a decimal coinage for India in which rupee would be divided into 100 cents instead of 192 pies and invited public opinion on the proposal. The reasons advanced were that the decimal currency had displaced other forms in most countries, the chief exceptions being India, Great Britan and certain Empire countries. Public reaction was favourable to the proposal, but no definite decision was taken. (See *The Indian Year Book and Who's Who, 1945-46*, Vol. XXXII, p. 25).

The former *Gazetter on Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha* (1880) gives a succinct account of the conditions of trade in the Mahi Kantha Agency areas in those days.

COURSE OF TRADE

Pre-Independence Days—"Considerable traffic was formerly carried on between Gujarat and Meywar through Idar, Pol and thence to Marwar. The principal articles of trade in the Mahi Kantha are grain of all sorts, *tal*, sesamum, indicum, clarified butter, *ghi*, oils, honey, soap, timber and cloth, both coloured and plain. The local manufactures exported to the neighbouring districts of Ahmedabad and Baroda are leather worked upon various ways, coloured cloth, knives, honey, wax, and soap."

"In ordinary seasons, more grain is produced than is wanted for the district food supply. Of the crops, wheat, maize, (*makai*), *bajri*, *juvar*, *methi*, *math*, and *adad* are exported to some extent The chief important articles are Morinda, Surangi, Safflower, *kasumba*, turmeric, betelnut, spices, English piece-goods, silks, cloth for female dresses, and turbans from Pratapgad in Malwa, Ahmedabad and Paithan in the Nizam's dominions, tobacco, coconuts, dates and copper and brass vessels."[1]

Further, the *Administration Report of the Bombay Presidency, Mahi Kantha Agency*, for the year 1885-86 gives details as regards trade in the following terms.

> "The burdensome transit dues which are levied in every petty jurisdiction, not only in Mahi Kantha, but also in Boroda territory, are an effectual impediment to the development of trade. At present, no cart from any part of the Mahi Kantha can reach the railway without paying these dues, and the dues frequently have to be paid eight or nine times over. The great falling off in the dyeing trade of Pethapur may be attributed to these causes. A number of the inhabitants during the past year left the town in order to establish themselves in some locality where their industry would be less hampered. The imposition of the enhanced Baroda transit dues is of recent date."[2]

The above observations show that the transit dues were so oppressive that traders migrated to other places for business.

In addition to the above, the *Administration Report of Idar State* shows the position of trade in the State in the following manner.

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1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), pp. 377-378

2. *The Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency, Mahi Kantha Agency*, for the year 1885-86.

"The system of customs-levy, hitherto followed, imposed duty not only on articles that entered or left the State limits, but also on those that passed from one place to another within the State's own territory. This system had been pressing heavily on the people and greatly hampered the trade. The duty leviable on goods moving from one village to another within Idar limits was hence abolished except with regard to the goods that went to Ahmednagar (Himatnagar), from any other village of the State or came from Ahmednagar to any other such village. It is only on the import of foreign goods into the State and the export of home-merchandise to foreign parts that the customs duty has been retained."[1]

The principal articles of export trade were wheat, maize, sesamum, *methi*, tobacco, groundnut, *mahuda* flowers and seeds, *ghi*, gum, cotton, cottonseeds and bones. Those of imports were *gur*, sugar, rice, yarn, cloth, salt, spices, coconuts, iron, silver, gold, copper and brass vessels, iron sheets, kerosene, oil and petrol.[2]

After 1947

On account of development of rail and road transport facilities, the trade has become more diversified. Former barriers to the development of trade such as transit dues in the princely territories have been done away with and uniform rates have been introduced. The country being unified after Independence has led to much expansion of trade in terms of inter-State trade. Markets of adjoining States have been brought nearer by a net-work of roads. At present, imports in the district consist of the following categories. Cereals and pulses are imported from Mehsana and Ahmedabad. Cotton and groundnutseeds are brought from Mehsana and Ahmedabad. Fruits, dry fruits, etc., are imported from Ahmedabad and Bombay. Among the different varities in textiles, cotton cloth and sarees are imported from Ahmedabad and Bombay from where ready-made garments are also brought. Miscellaneous articles such as hardware, crockery and soap are imported from Ahmedabad and Bombay. Medicines are imported from the centres of manufacture like Baroda, Bombay and Calcutta.

The Sabarkantha district transports cotton to Bombay, Ahmedabad and Baroda, for the manufacture of textiles, and groundnut oil to Ahmedabad and as far as upto Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Cereals and grains are exported to Ahmedabad.

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1. *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State*, for the year 1902-03, p. 14. As a result, in the Idar State, a saying became current that; ઈડર રાજ્યમાં દાણી રોકે કે પાણી રોકે, *i. e.*, in the Idar State, a person may be stopped or halted by a customs clerk or flowing water.
2. *Ibid.*, 1931-32, p. 16.

TRADE THROUGH RAIL

During the year 1969-70, the tonnage of goods overhauled through railway was 985,913. Of these, 768,725 tonnes relate to imports (terminating traffic) and 217,188 tonnes exports (originating traffic). The stations, which had large terminating traffic were Talod (481,512 tonnes), Himatnagar (284,740 tonnes), Sonasan (55,131 tonnes), Jadar (46,268 tonnes), Khedbrahma (41,206 tonnes), Idar (29,990 tonnes) and Prantij (37 156 tonnes).[1] This is because the district imports cotton, groundnut seeds, maize, other foodgrains and other commodities from the neighbouring districts of Mehsana and Ahmedabad. In respect of exports also the stations mentioned above are outstanding. The district has large deposits of minerals like asbestos, bauxite, bentonite, china clay, quartz and steatite in the talukas of Himatnagar, Prantij, Idar, Meghraj and Bhiloda. These are sent out for their industrial uses. Moreover, cotton is also sent to the textile centres of Ahmedabad and Bombay, groundnut oil to Ahmedabad and as far upto Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

REGULATED MARKETS

To eliminate unfair practices in marketing of agricultural produce in the late twenties and thirties of this century, the Bombay Cotton Markets Act, 1927 was enacted. Both the Royal Commission on Agriculture (1927) and the Bombay Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee (1931) stressed the need for affording facilities and protection to the agricultural community in disposal of marketable surplus of agricultural produce by establishing a chain of regulated markets at different places. "The prosperity of the agriculturists and the success of any policy of general agricultural improvement" observed the Royal Commission, "depend to a very large degree on the facilities which the agricultural community has at its disposal for marketing to the best advantage as much of its produce as surplus to its own requirements." By and large, the Indian agriculturists were and are illiterate and traders were found taking undue advantage of their illiteracy. Their economic condition had also deteriorated on account of the "Great Depression" of 1929. To help agriculturists in their sad plight, the then Government of Bombay enacted the Bombay Agricultural Produce Markets Act in 1939 repealing the Bombay Cotton Markets Act, 1927. It came into force with effect from November, 1939.

This act was passed with the avowed object of establishing equity in the bargaining power of agriculturists and merchants, promoting mutual confidence, preventing malpractices and giving a fair deal to the farmers.

1. Traffic details about six stations on the Himatnagar-Udaipur line are not included as the same are not available.

With these objects in view, the legislation sought to regulate the various features of agricultural marketing in regulated markets.

The Act of 1939 was applied first to the Prantij taluka in 1948 and a regulated market was established at Talod in the same year. Thereafter, such markets were established at Dhansura, Himatnagar, Bayad, Khedbrahma, Meghraj and Malpur. On the formation of the Gujarat State in May, 1960, the State Government adopted and applied the old Bombay Act to this State but was later on replaced by the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1963. The regulated markets in the district are now governed by this Act.

Each regulated market is governed by a market committee which is constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Act and generally consists of 17 members and comprises the represantatives of the agricultural class, the trading class, co-operative societies, and nominees of the local body and the Government. The location of the markets and the area served by each of them are mentioned below.

Regulated Market	*Area served*
Talod	Principal Market yard at Talod and sub-market yard at Salal. It serves the whole of the Prantij taluka.
Bayad	Principal Market yard at Bayad and sub-market yard at Demai. It serves the whole of the Bayad taluka.
Dhansura	Principal Market yard at Dhansura and sub-market yard at Modasa. It serves the whole of the Modasa taluka.
Idar	Principal Market yard at Idar and sub-market vards at Jadar and Vadali and serves the whole of the Idar taluka.
Himatnagar	Principal Market yard at Himatnagar and sub-market yard at Vakhtapur. It serves whole of the Himatnagar taluka.
Meghraj	Serves the whole of Meghraj taluka.
Malpur	Serves the whole of Malpur mahal.
Khedbrahma	Serves the whole of Khedbrahma taluka.

Regulated Commodities

Commodities like groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, wheat, *mug*, maize, gram, *tur*, *cotton bajri*, *jowar* and *sarsav* are the main commodities regulated in these markets and are sold by open auction in the yards of the markets and sub-markets.

The Composition of Markets

Brokers, traders, weighmen and *hamals* constitute the market functionaries and their strength in each market as on 30th September, 1970 was as follows : Talod and Salal (1,500); Idar, Jadar and Vadali (525); Khedbrahma (332); Bayad (280); Meghraj (263) and Malpur (30). These persons held valid licences issued by each market committee on payment of prescribed fees.

Transactions in Regulated Markets

During the year 1968-69, transactions in regulated commodities were to the tune of 15,13,714 quintals. Details of sales in each market were as follows.

Sl. No	Name of Market	Quantity in Quintals	Sl. No.	Name of Market	Quantity in Quintals
1	2	3	1	2	3
1	Idar	3,55,457	5	Dhansura ..	1,71,354
2	Bayad	3,28,931	6	Khedbrahma ..	1,05,515
3	Talod	2,53,756	7	Meghraj	35,147
4	Himatnagar	2,39,755	8	Malpur	33,799
				Total	15,13,714

Source :

Annual Reports of Market Committees for the year 1968-69.

The above statement reveals that the regulated market at Idar had the highest transaction of agricultural commodities followed by Bayad, Talod and Himatnagar. The market at Malpur had the lowest transactions.

Facilities

These markets have been provided with godowns so as to enable members to store their produce. In the villages, covered by the respective markets, storing is done in bags or in large earthen containers. The prices

ruling the markets are furnished to the authorities and are published in important newspapers and are broadcast from the All-India Radio, Ahmedabad-Baroda. Periodical returns are submitted to the departmental officers. Price data are also furnished through the medium of post offices in the interior parts of the district.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Trade Centres—Wholesale trade is generally concentrated in the large towns and cities and caters to the needs of retailers and others interested in bulk purchase of articles. The movement of goods in this district is generally carried out by motor trucks because of inadequacy of railways. Therefore, increasing use is being made of the motor trucks to carry goods outside the district. Wholesale trade centres in this district are Himatnagar, the district headquarters, and taluka centres like Idar, Khedbrahma, Modasa, Malpur and Bayad which are centres of retail trade also. Bayad, Idar, Himatnagar, Jadar, Talod, Khedbrahma, Modasa, Meghraj and Malpur are the important wholesale trade centres in the district arranged according to the volume of transactions. At all these centres, the practice of charging brokerage, quality allowance, weighing, etc., is in vogue and the rates are generally uniform in all the markets, with slight variations according to local conditions. These are centres of retail trade also. A brief description of each of these centres is given below.

Bayad—Bayad is the headquarters of the Bayad taluka and is situated about 30·60 kms. away from Kapadwanj railway station in the Kaira district. It is also connected by State Highway from Kapadwanj to Modasa and is served regularly by State Transport bus services. There is no railway line in this area.

Groundnut and cotton are the main crops of the area Castorseeds, sesamum, *tur*, *mug*, *math*, *udid*, *bajri* and maize are other commodities of wholesale trade. The value of transactions during 1969-70 was reported to be Rs. 7,06,83,300.

Idar—Idar, the headquarters of the Idar taluka, is situated on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma railway line and is connected by bus routes with other taluka centres. The important commodities are castorseeds, cotton, wheat, *bajri*, groundnut, *methi*, maize, etc. The value of transactions in these commodities was reported to be of the order of Rs. 4,39,48,152 during the year 1969-70.

Cotton, groundnut-seeds and maize are brought here from Meghraj, Dhansura, Khedbrahma, Bhiloda and Vijaynagar in this district as also from Banaskantha, Mehsana, Rajkot and Jamnagar, whereas *methi*, cotton, maize, wheat, castorseeds, groundnut and sesamum, which are the principal

products of these places, are exported to Ahmedabad, Dohad, Godhra, Baroda and Broach. Idar is also famous for its wooden toys industry.

Himatnagar—Himatnagar, the district headquarters, is a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma metre gauge railway line of the Western Railway. It is also connected by bus routes with other taluka centres in and outside the district. The Himatnagar-Udaipur railway line connects it with centres in the adjoining State of Rajasthan. Himatnagar is noted for its wholesale trade in wheat, cotton, groundnut, maize, *bajri*, castorseeds, paddy, sesamum, *tur*, *mug*, *chola*, gram, *jowar*, etc. The total value of transactions in these commodities amounted to Rs. 3,94,57,133 in 1969-70.

Maize, *bajri* and *jowar* are imported from Ahmedabad to meet the local demand. Cotton is exported to Ahmedabad and Bombay, while groundnut oil is sent to Ahmedabad, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and as far as Delhi.

Jadar—Jadar, situated in the Idar taluka, is a wholesale trade centre on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. Castorseeds, cotton, wheat, *methi*, *bajri* and groundnut are the main whole-sale trade commodities valued at Rs. 2,47,23,018 during the year 1969-70.

Talod—Talod is a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma metre gauge railway line of Western Railway. It is also connected by bus routes with other centres of the district. Groundnut, castorseeds, sesamum, *tur*, wheat, *bajri*, maize and cotton, are the chief commodities of the wholesale trade. The value of transactions was reported to be of the order of Rs. 2,28,76,070 in 1969-70. Of the above commodities, *gur*, cotton, pulses and groundnut oil are exported to places outside the district.

Khedbrahma—Khedbrahma is the taluka headquarters situated 48·30 kms. north of Idar and is the terminus station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma metre gauge railway line of the Western Railway. It is also connected by bus routes with other centres. The main items of wholesale trade are maize, wheat, cotton, groundnut, castorseeds, sesamum, gram, *udid*, *chola*, *bajri*, *jowar*, *mug* and *methi*, etc., valued approximately at Rs. 1,34,17,769 in 1969-70.

Modasa—Modasa, the taluka headquarters, is not connected by any railway. But it is connected by bus-routes with other taluka centres in and outside the district. It is an important trading centre with ginning factories and oil mills. Groundnut, cotton, sesamum and pulses are the chief commodities of wholesale trade valued approximately at Rs. 1,25,14,980 in 1969-70.

Meghraj—Meghraj is the headquarters of the taluka of the same name. Situated on the river Vatrak, it is a marketing centre for the surrounding

area. The main items of wholesale trade are groundnut, wheat, maize, cotton, paddy, etc. The value of wholesale transactions was reported to be of the order Rs 59,04,872 during the year 1969-70.

Malpur—Malpur is the mahal headquarters of the same name. It is a trading centre for the surrounding villages. Groundnut, cotton, maize, paddy, gram, *tur*, wheat, *bajri*, sesamum, *kodra* and castorseeds are the main commodities of the wholesale trade valued at Rs. 37,26,190 in 1969-70.

The following statement gives centrewise details about the wholesale transactions during the year 1969-70.

STATEMENT VI-3

Transactions at Wholesale Trade Centres, 1969-70

Sl. No.	Commodities / Place	Groundnut Rs.	Cotton Rs.	Sesamum Rs.	Castorseeds Rs.	Pulses Rs.	Wheat Rs.	*Bajri* Rs.	Maize Rs.	Others Rs.	Total Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Bayad ..	2,45,53,624	4,10,01,246	24,89,740	6,92,280	2,20,115	4,12,560	7,36,125	3,36,350	2,41,260	7,06,83,300
2	Idar ..	52,17,146	3,32,39,419	3,44,865	7,98,044	7,755	13,38,386	3,76,435	24,02,590	2,23,509	4,39,48,152
3	Himatnagar ..	58,28,070	2,57,46,320	9,40,600	12,85,320	3,87,900	23,26,505	20,26,505	7,60,098	1,55,815	3,94,57,133
4	Jadar ..	24,08,555	2 15,45,169	18,743	2,53,249	58	1,04,317	1,21,831	1,22,912	1,48,186	2,47,23,018
5	Talod ..	37,91.964	55,14,230	8,62,513	22,90,986	15,31,732	24,49,774	23,89,028	..	40,45,843	2,28,76,070
6	Khedbrahma ..	5,34,681	68,58,000	7,12,529	4,72,557	2,90,642	10,99,326	1,30,854	27,04,258	6,14,922	1,34,17,769
7	Modasa ..	39.25,200	73,65,340	8,58,000	..	3,66,440	..	..	..	..	1,25,14,980
8	Meghra, ..	1,02,390	10,62,222	17,31,080	86,370	3,13,160	2,97,910	14,04,290	6,54,260	2,53,190	59,04,872
9	Malpur ..	12,17,750	11,23,750	2,74,790	1,07,600	87,240	2,16,150	96,720	4,87,830	1,14,360	37,26,190
	Total ..	**4,75,79,380**	**14,34,55,696**	**83,32,860**	**59,86,406**	**32,05,042**	**82,44,928**	**72,81,788**	**74,68,298**	**57,97,086**	**23,72,51,484**

Source:

Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sabarkantha District, Himatnagar.

The statement reveals that the total value of transactions at these markets was of the order of Rs. 23,72,51,464. Of these the Himatnagar, Idar and Bayad markets claimed over 60 per cent of the total transactions during the year 1969-70. Further, cotton and groundnut are the principal products of the district and jointly claimed over 70 per cent of the total transactions at these centres.

EMPLOYMENT IN TRADE AND COMMERCE

The *1961 Census returned 13,947 persons (males 12,474 and females 1,473)* as engaged in the trading profession in the district. Of these, 28·14 per cent only were from urban areas and 71·86 per cent from rural areas making for the predominance of such areas in the district. The statistics further revealed that workers engaged in wholesale trade numbered 552 only, while retail trade claimed as many as 12,977 persons. Predominance of retail traders among those engaged in this economic activity was obvious. Even among the retail traders, those selling essential commodities like food and clothing, wherein a majority were employed, predominate. The important branches in retail trading in the district together with those employed therein in order were : (1) retail trading in goods unspecified 1,824, (2) retail trading in other household equipment 548, (3) retail trading in toilet goods, perfumes and cosmetics 520, (4) trade and commerce miscellaneous 418, and (5) those dealing in *pan*, *bidi*, cigarettes and other tobacco products 364.

Retail Trade

Retail trade was carried on by a large number of establishments located in various towns and villages in the district and catered to the needs of inhabitants of their respective localities. Retail traders usually obtained their goods on credit from local wholesalers and settled bills during the specified time-limit, whereafter interest became leviable on the amount of credit provided. Their stock in trade was limited and generally depended upon their financial condition and demand from the public. Retailers were quick in respect of overhaul of goods and replenished those items which generally were in continuous demand from the people. Whereas the capacity of retailers in rural and semi-urban areas for keeping large stocks of goods was in most cases limited, on account of their limited resources. They maintained stocks sufficient for their normal sales. But their counterparts in cities and towns, because of their better financial position and social status, were capable of having stocks in large quantities. The brisk season for retail trade generally lasted from October to June, because the period from July to September, being dominated by monsoon business was comparatively slack and people also avoided celebrations of social occasions like

marriage. Retail traders in *pan*, *bidi*, tobacco, etc., normally carried on brisk business all throughout the year. But during festivals like Diwali and on public holidays their business was even more brisk. In other branches too transactions in retail trade particularly reached its peak during such festivals as the Holi, Dassera, the Diwali and the marriage season. Retail sales were usually on cash basis, but where customers were well acquainted with the traders, running accounts were opened and settled periodically.

According to the data furnished by the 1961 Census, 12,977 persons were engaged in retail trade in the district. Of these 3,364 were from towns and the rest from the rural areas. Retail trading (i) in cereals, pulses, fruits, sugar, spices, oil, fish, dairy products, foodstuffs, sweetmeats, condiments and spices, cakes, biscuits, etc., employed 6,786 persons, (ii) textile including fibers, yarns, *dhoti*, ready-made garments of cotton, wool, silk, and other varieties and hosiery products (1,550), and (iii) trade in goods unspecified (1,824). The Census data further showed that among the retailers, 3,895 persons were employers, 2,150 employees, 4,448 single workers and 3,454 family members of those employed in the retail trade.

Retail trade was and is generally distributed in the following groups: (i) grocery shops selling cereals, pulses, spices, *gur*, groundnut and sesamum, oil, *ghee*, tea, coffee, condiments, dry fruits, baking soda, menthol crystals, saffron, catechu, *agarbatti*, etc., (ii) *pan-bidi* and tobacco shops, which are generally one-man establishments selling *pan* (betel leaves), *bidi*, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, betel-nuts, catechu, menthol crystals, wax candles, match boxes and aerated waters, (iii) cloth and hosiery shops which deal in all kinds of textiles, cotton, woollen, silk, nylon and other finer varieties of textiles such as terene, nylon, orlon, and other synthetic cloth having a wide range of clothing such as shirting, coating, *sarees*, *dhotis*, *malmal*, *chhint*, voiles and hosiery articles of all sorts and varieties, (iv) fuel and charcoal shops, (v) stationery and cutlery shops, (vi) fruits and vegetables shops, (vii) shops selling household utensils of brass, copper, aluminium, German Silver and stainless steel, (viii) hardware and building materials, (ix) chemists, (x) sweetmeat and *farsan* shops and (xi) leather goods and footwear.

Retail marketing centres are situated in almost all areas. As the population has increased and communications made easy, retail shops have sprung up in rural areas also. In the urban areas, wholesale trade centres also function as retail marketing centres, important among them being Himatnagar, the district headquarters and Modasa Prantij and Idar.

Fair Price Shops

As a result of the Second World War, there was an abnormal rise in the prices of essential consumption commodities like foodgrains, cloth, sugar, *gur*, kerosene, etc. Rationing was, therefore, introduced in the country so as

to provide relief to the economically weaker sections of the society and middle class people.

But prices have continued to rise even in the post-War and post-Independence periods causing greater hardships to the people. Except for a short recession, following rise in the Bank rate in the year 1952, the prices of essential commodities have never shown a downward trend till to-day. Government has, therefore, taken up distribution of foodgrains and edible oil to the persons in the lower income groups through the fair price shops authorised by Government, opened at convenient places for the facility of the public. There were 238 shops in the district during the year 1969-70 which distributed wheat, rice, maize, *jowar*, sugar and groundnut oil, which amounted to 2,69,599 quintals valued approximately at Rs. 2·93 crores during the year. The scheme has substantially helped the poor sections by providing the coarse grains at cheaper rates.

FAIRS

In the district, the fairs including those celebrated by the Adivasis, are generally associated with important deities, religious festivals and saints and local customs and attract people from all strata of society and serve four-fold purposes-religious, social, economic and cultural. In the past when modes of communications were not developed, apart from their religious significance, fairs were the only market places for the village people, who could purchase articles of daily use from these fairs. But their economic significance in the modern times has, however, declined owing to the development of transport facilities, spread of education, decreasing influence of religion, and alternative modes of recreation and entertainment at home which have made these fairs less popular and attractive than in the past. On account of construction of railways and development of roads on which automobile vehicles ply, every village or town has now a number of shops providing articles of daily necessities. Thus there is now practically little or no need on the part of village-folk to go to fairs for purchases, as articles of daily consumption have been made available at their very door-step. Yet fairs have not altogether become less influential even in modern times, because of fun and merriment they provide to people from all walks of life.

Common consumption articles, drinks, *pan-bidi* and cigarettes, bangles, cheap ornaments hosiery and a number of other articles are brought to these fairs and sold in the shops specially set-up for them. They also provide refreshment and recreation to the visitors.

In all, 112 fairs are held in this district at different places and at different times of the year. Of these following 20 fairs deserve special mention in view of large gatherings of people.

Fairs attended by 5,000 persons or more

Sl. No. 1	Name of the fair 2	Place 3	Number of persons attending 4
1	Shamalaji	Shamalaji	1,50,000
2	Mudhaneshwar Mahadev	Jadar	30,000
3	Navasti or Chitra-Vichitra	Gunbhakhari	25,000
4	Anand Mela	Amba Mahuda	15,000
5	Bhavnath (Bhuvaneshwar)	Desan	10,000-12,000
6	Chaitri Punam	Khedbrahma	8,000-10,000
7	Vado-Ditvar	Bavalia	8,000-10,000
8	Bhadarvi Punam	Khedbrahma	7,000-8,000
9	Bhavnath (Bhuvaneshwar) Mahashivratri	Desan	7,000
10	Kali Mata	Ghadi	6,000
11	Dhareshwar Mahadev	Vantda-Bayad	5,000-10,000
12	Janmashtami	,,	5,000-10,000
13	Mahashivratri	,,	5,000-10,000
14	Kartak Punam	Khedbrahma	5,000-6,000
15	Gandhigher Melo	Shamalaji	5,000-6,000
16	Ramnavmi	Laxmipura	5,000
17	Jhala	Durgawada	5,000
18	Kantalu Hanuman (Amali Agiarash)	Kantalu	5,000
19	Janmashtami	Utarda	5,000
20	Mahashivratri	,,	5,000

Source :
Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*.

More details about these fairs are given in Chapter III—People.

CO-OPERATION IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

One of the important trends of the modern times relate to the enlargement of the co-operative sphere after Independence Besides the co-operative societies, service co-operative societies, urban banks and multipurpose co-operative societies, there has emerged, in the field of trade and commerce, institutions like the co-operative purchase and sale organisations at important places which undertake sale of consumer goods as also meet the requirements of agriculturists in the form of tools, fertilisers, seeds, etc. This has, in no small way, affected the trend of ruling prices both wholesale

and retail and has helped the economically weaker sections of the society by providing necessary consumer goods at reasonable rates. These unions undertake both retail and wholesale transactions in respect of articles sold by them.

In the Sabarkantha district, the co-operative purchase and sale unions are established at Himatnagar, Idar, Khedbrahma, Modasa, Malpur, Meghraj, Bayad, Bhiloda and Shamalaji. These unions supply fertilisers, seeds, oil-engines, electric motors and other electrical goods to the agriculturists besides providing daily consumption goods to the public at large. The Sabarkantha District Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union Limited at Himatnagar has branches at Gambhoi, Dhansura and Meghraj and also runs 4 fair-price shops at Himatnagar. It has constructed large sized godowns at Himatnagar for the purpose of storing agricultural produce and other commodities. It also maintains 2 trucks for transportation of goods to other places. The total value of goods sold by it in the year 1969-70 was in the region of Rs. 1·95 crores and made a profit of Rs. 194,273 in that year. The Idar Taluka Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union, Idar has branches at Jadar and Vadali. It supplies fertilisers, pesticides, seeds, oil-engines, electrical goods to the agriculturists and other household goods to the people of the Idar taluka. The total sales of the union in the year 1969-70 amounted to Rs. 10,32,381 and earned a profit of Rs. 33,515. The Khedbrahma Taluka Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union carries on similar activities. The value of the goods sold by it, in the year 1969-70 was Rs. 17,58,198 and made a profit of Rs. 14,574. The Modasa union also maintains 2 fair price shops at Modasa. The total sales amounted to Rs. 29,70,365 and the profit amounted to Rs. 2,893 in the year 1969-70. The Meghraj Taluka Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union Ltd., Meghraj also supplied hybrid seeds, crude oil, besides other articles of daily needs to the public. It also maintains one fair price shop and a cloth shop. During the year 1969-70, its sales amounted to Rs. 7,76,662 and profit Rs. 7,923. The Malpur Taluka Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union, formerly worked as Co-operative Multi-purpose Society till October 1967 and was converted into a Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union thereafter. It maintains 4 fair price shops at Malpur. During the year 1969-70, its total sales and profits were reported to be Rs. 8,51,961 and Rs. 4,226 respectively. The Shamalaji Vibhagiya Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union, Shamalaji was registered in the year 1960 and functions in the Adivasi area. It sold articles worth Rs. 8,847 during the year 1969-70.

Trade Associations

The former *Gazetteer on Mahi Kantha* (1880)[1] vividly describes the existence of merchants' guilds in the following terms.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 379.

"In the Mahi Kantha all classes of traders, Vanias dealing in money, cloth, grain or grocery, oilmen, dyers, calico-printers, Bohoras and Dheds have each a trade guild, *mahajan*, composed of the chief man of the community. The Vania *mahajan* takes a lead in deciding disputes. The difference of classes of manufacturers and craftmen such as weavers, warpers and sorters have not a separate guild. If their interests clash, the question is referred for settlement to the Vanias' guild. There has never been a strike in any of the trade. When all engaged in a craft or calling are of one caste, the *mahajan* enforces its decisions by refusing to have any dealings with any disobedient member. When the men engaged in a craft or calling are of different castes, no general steps are taken to enforce the *mahajan's* decisions. Among money-lenders, cloth-sellers, grain-dealers, grocers, copper and brass sellers, the practice of apprenticeship, prevails to a certain extent. When a man adopts a craft or calling which his father did not follow, he has not to pay any entrance fine or make any special arrangements with the trade *mahajan*, and no fees are levied when a man succeeds his father. *Mahajans*' funds are derived from gifts on occasions of marriage or death ; from fines on breakers of caste rules, and from intestate property. They are spent on religious objects and on matters touching to the interests of the community. The leading men of the different Vania castes are called Seths but they have no special trade functions and there is no *nagarseth* or acknowledged head of the merchants."

Trade and commerce being one of the principal economic activities of modern times, associations and organisations of traders and manufacturers have come into existence to safeguard the interests of their respective branches. Recognising their utility and importance, the Central and State Governments nominate their representatives on the various committees and sub-committees appointed by them, so that they can express their view points on matters affecting trade and industry. The growth of trade associations in the modern sense of the term is of very recent origin. Names of the important associations of traders and merchants functioning in this district are given below.

1. The Himatnagar Grain and Seeds Merchants' Association, Himatnagar.

2. The Sabarkantha District Co-operative Ginners, Oil Mills and Purchase and Sale Union Ltd., Himatnagar.

3. The Sabarkantha Oil Mills and Cotton Merchants' Association, Himatnagar.

4. The Grain Merchants' Association, Talod.

5. The Grain Merchants' Association, Khedbrahma.

6. The General Merchants' Association, Dhansura.

7. The Grain Merchants' Association, Modasa.

8. The General Merchants' Association, Modasa.

The aims and objects of these associations are : (1) to look after the interest of trade and commerce of the region and help create harmonious relations among members, (2) arbitrate whenever possible in trade disputes and study legislation affecting trade, commerce and industry and present its views to Government, (3) to watch developments at home and abroad and introduce, if necessary, suitable changes in the existing pattern of trade and industry, (4) to maintain liaison between different associations and merchants in the interests of the trade and industry, (5) to co-operate with other industrial and commercial associations for the furtherance of their aims and objects and (6) to publish annual reports and other literature giving useful information regarding trade and commerce and industry for the use of members.

1. *The Grain and Seeds Merchants' Association, Himatnagar*—This association started functioning in the year 1962. The objects of the association are : (i) to develop grain and seeds trade at Himatnagar, (ii) to explain the rules and regulations in respect of trade and commerce to the members, and (iii) to safeguard the interests of merchants affiliated to it. The association has, on a number of occasions, represented to the district and State authorities in respect of problems affecting the grain trade in the district and to seek amendments to the rules in force as far as possible. The association is represented on the following committees : (1) The Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Himatnagar, (2) The Gujarat Foodgrain Dealers' Association, Ahmedabad, and (3) The Maha Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, Ahmedabad.

2. *The Sabarkantha Jilla Co-operative Ginners, Oil Mill and Purchase and Sale Union Ltd., Himatnagar*—This union was registered on 1st February, 1966 with a membership of 11 co-operative institutions. This has grown to 15 at present. The aims and objects of the union broadly are : (1) to help in the production of qualitative produce as far as possible and to help members procure oil, machinery, spare parts, seeds and packing materials, (2) to supervise and guide the affiliated Co-operative Institutions, (3) to collect statistics pertaining to the cotton trade and disseminate the same to the members, (4) to construct, hire and rent the godowns for the purpose of storing members' produce, and (5) to help members sell, cotton seeds, grains, pulses, oil and groundnut by grading or by commission in and outside the district.

The union often takes up problems affecting marketing and finance with the Reserve Bank and also gathers information regarding cotton pooled, ginned and pressed in the co-operative ginning factories.

Other Associations have also similar aims and objects and also help as far as possible in the furtherance of their respective trades.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

About weights and measures used in the Sabarkantha district, the old *Gazetteer of Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha* (1880), makes the following observations.

There were no dealers in precious stones. The scale for gold and silver was : three *ratis*, one *val*; sixteen *vals*, one *gadiano*; two *gadianas*, one *tola*. Coffee, cotton, drugs, salt, spices, molasses, sugar, rice, and grains were weighed according to the following measures : four *pasers*, one *ser*; forty *sers*, one *man* (maund). A *ser* was equal to forty Imperial rupees in weight. The measures for liquids such as clarified butter, oil, and honey, were 2½ rupees, one *adhol*; two *adhols*, one *navtank*; two *navtanks*, one *paser*; two *pasers*; *one achher*; two *achhers*, one *ser*; ten *sers*, one *dhadi*; four *dhadis*, one *man*. In the wild parts of the province, in measuring quantities of less than five *sers* of butter or honey, instead of iron weights in the case of foodgrains, etc., wooden measures were used. In some places milk was also sold by measure upto one *ser* in brass vessels. The measure for other substances was four *paser*, one *ser*; 1¼ *sers*, one *pali*; four *palis*, one *manu*; two *manus*, one *domanu*; two *domanus*, one *sahi*; five *sahis*, one *pakalsi*; four *pakalsi*, one *kalsi*; ten *kalsis*, one *muda*. (the last four were simple names, no weights or measures of their size were in use). Cotton, silk and other goods were sold by the following measures, but when entire pieces of cloth were sold in lump, a score was the unit in ordinary use; two *angals* or finger breadths one *tasu*, the space between finger joints; twenty-four *tasus*, one *gaj*, thirty-six *tasus*; one *var* or yard; and eighteen *tasus*, one *hath* or cubit. The other long measures were eight *yavs*, one *angal*; two *angals*, one *tasu*; twelve *tasus*, one *hath*; three *haths*, one *panadu* or *kadam*; and 1800 *panadus* or *kadams*, one *gau*; about one and a half miles. Land was measured according to the following system : eighteen *tasus*, one *hath*; five *haths*, one *kathi*; twenty *kathis*, one *vasa*; twenty *vasas*, one *vigha*.[1]

The use of weights and measures mentioned above remained in vogue even after Independence. The Bombay Weights and Measures Act, 1958 introduced uniform weights and measures throughout the bilingual Bombay State. But in order to achieve a smooth flow of both internal and external

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur a Mahi Kantha*, (1880), pp. 375-76.

trade, and for simplifying the trade dealings at various levels, the Government of India, introduced the Decimal System called the Metric System of Weights and Measures throughout the country.

By this system, the weight measures and the linear measures have been reduced to a multiple of ten. In Gujarat, the use of metric measures has been made compulsory from April, 1962 and its implementation has been entrusted to the Commissioner of Industries in the State. The sailent features of the system are mentioned below.

1. Length is measured in metres instead of in yards,

   1 metre = 1·09 yards

2. Distance is measured in kilometres instead of in miles,

   1 km. = 0·62 mile

3 Weight is measured in kilograms instead of in pound (lb.) or seer.

   1 kg. = 2·2 lbs. or 1·07 seer, and quintal instead of a maund.

   1 quintal = 5·38 mds.

4. Area of the land is now measured in hectares instead of in acres.

   1 hectare = 2·47 acres

5. *Tola* weights have been replaced by grams.

   One gram which is one thousandth part of a kilogram is equal to 0·086 *tolas*.

6 Unit for valuable stones in carat,
   1 carat which is one-fifth of the gram equals 0·017 *tolas*.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

Economic development of a region largely depends, *inter alia* on the infrastructure of means of communications and transport. Prior to the advent of automobile vehicles and railways, for the movement of agricultural produce and finished goods, bullock carts, beasts of burden like bullocks, camels and donkeys, wagoners and wherever possible indigenous boats were utilised. With the development of a net-work of railways, roads and ports, however, these old means of transport are now being gradually replaced by modern means of transport.

At the time of Independence, the Sabarkantha district was very backward in respect of communication facilities. There were only a few roads with the result that the road transport had not developed. Only one railway line, *i. e.*, Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Khedbrahma-Idar, was passing through the district which covered only 104 kms., in the district. Thus the railway facilities were also quite inadequate. As the district is land-locked, there are no ports and hence the water transport could not be developed. Similarly there are no aerodromes. Thus even at present district does not enjoy the facilities of water and air transport. The district has, therefore, to depend solely on the rail-routes and roads.

Even after Independence, there has not been much progress in the construction of the railways in the district. The Himatnagar-Udaipur metregauge line is the only railway line constructed in the district in the years 1961-66. However, the development of road transport is a striking feature in the history of the transport facilities in the district Large amounts were spent in the construction of roads under the Five Year Plans. A number of new roads have been constructed and nationalised passenger bus services are plied on them by the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation. The transport facilities available in the district at present are reviewed in the pages that follow.

OLD TIME TRADE ROUTES

The present Sabarkantha district has been carved out from the Mahi Kantha Agency. Writing about the condition of the roads in the Mahi Kantha Agency towards the close of the 19th century, the former *Gazetteer on Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha,* makes the following observations :

> "There are nine chief lines of road. A made road nearly all the way from Idar to Ahmednagar (Himatnagar), partly bridged, about

ten miles; a made road from Idar to Brahmakhed, unbridged, fifteen miles; a made road from Idar to Dhambolia, unbridged, twenty-four miles, but raised only to Badoli, three miles; a tram-road from the gate of the town of Ahmednagar to the Hathmati weir, ½ of a mile; a cleared roadway from the railway station at Ahmedabad to Sadra cantonment, passing through the British, Gaikwar, and Mahi Kantha territory; a cleared roadway from Ahmedabad to Meywar and Vagad, passing through the British, Gaikwar, and Mahi Kantha territory; a cleared roadway from Ahmedabad to Neemuch via Meghraj, passing through the British, Gaikwar, and Mahi Kantha territory; an ordinary road from Brahmakhed into Marwar by Posina, passing through Idar and Danta limits; an ordinary road from Valasna to Pal, leading on to Khervada in the Meywar hilly tracts. All of these roads have been built and made fit for traffic by the chiefs through whose territories they pass. A poor kind of gravel, muram, found on the spot, is used for the surface of the made roads. An attempt is now being made to break into metal the rocks near the Ahmednagar and Idar road. These roads are free from tolls, but at different posts, *nakas*, transit dues are levied."[1]

The above extract reveals that : (1) Sabarkantha area was connected on the one hand with Ahmedabad and on the other with Mewad by made roads, (2) that only a poor kind of gravel was used to build the roads, which were mostly unbridged, which rendered them unfit for all weather traffic, and (3) that these roads were constructed by the chiefs of the Agency in their respective territories.

The progress of road construction was very slow. Most of the erstwhile princely States in the Mahi Kantha Agency were economically too poor to carry out any Public Works activity. The Government of the British India, therefore, interested itself in the construction of such roads which were useful for quick movement of its militia for checking the turbulent tribes on both sides of the Mahi Kantha and the Rajputana frontier.

Roads in Modern Times

Thus prior to Independence, the district was very poorly served by good made roads. A majority of the roads in existence were unmetalled and unbridged and were negotiable only in fair weather. Though road construction did not receive the importance it deserved in the pre-Independence days, a happy beginning towards systematic road construction was launched under the Nagpur Plan drawn up in 1943 for a period of 20 years (1941-1961). According to this plan, the territories included in the present

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 377.

Sabarkantha district were to have a total length of 1,142·10 miles by the end of 1961 However, very little was done in this respect till Independence.

After Independence, importance of the made roads was realised. For breaking the age-old isolation of many a village in the district which were mostly inaccessible, construction of roads and development of road transport were considered *sine qua non.* With this end in view large amounts were earmarked and spent on the development of roads in the successive Five Year Plans. At the end of the First Plan, the total length of the roads in the district was 602 kms., of which only 168 kms., had a metalled surface. Thus there were only a few metalled roads in the district even at the end of the First Five Year Plan.

During the Second Plan period, concentration was, therefore, laid on improving the surface of the roads. During this period, a section of National Highway No. 8 between Ahmedabad and Delhi falling within the Sabarkantha district was metalled. At the end of the Second Plan, out of a total length of 660 kms., of roads, 494 kms., had metalled surface Thus the road length has continuously increased and improved. After the introduction of Panchayati Raj from April, 1963, roads below the category of State Highways such as the Major District Roads, Other District Roads and the Village Roads have been transferred to the District Panchayats.

At present the district is fairly served by a National Highway, State Highways, Major District Roads, other District Roads and the Village approach roads, the total length of which was 1,621 kms., in 1970-71. Of these, 438 kms., are maintained by the State Public Works Department and 1,183 kms. by the District Panchayat, Sabarkantha. A brief description of the different categories of the roads running through the length and breadth of the district is given below

Classification of Roads

The present classification of roads is based upon the resolution of the Indian Roads Congress passed at its Nagpur Session in 1943. It broadly classifies roads into two types : (1) main roads consisting of National Highways, State Highways and Major District Roads passing through out the length and breadth of country, and (2) the other roads consisting of Other District Roads and Village Roads.

National Highways

National Highways (N. H.) have been defined as main highways serving predominantly national as distinct from the State purposes, and running through the length and breadth of India, which, together form a system connecting by routes as direct as practicable, major ports, foreign

highways, the State capitals and also include those of strategic importance required for the defence of the country. National Highways are maintained by the State Public Works Department from the funds provided by the Central Government. These are generally tar roads, with a minimum width of 11·58 metres. Details about the Ahmedabad-Delhi National Highway No. 8 which passes through this district is given below.

The Ahmedabad-Delhi (via Ajmer) National Highway No. 8—This is one of the most important roads passing through the district. After leaving Ahmedabad district, the road enters the Sabarkantha district near village Majara of the Prantij taluka. In this district, it passes through the Prantij, Himatnagar and Bhiloda talukas and, thereafter, leaves the district boundary to enter Rajasthan to run further up to Delhi and beyond. The length of the road in the district is 92·16 kms., which has a black-topped surface. Important bridges on the road in the district are constructed on the Nadri and the Meshvo rivers. The road is motorable all the year round. Important places on the road are: Prantij, a big commercial centre, Himatnagar, the district headquarters as also an important trade centre and Shamalaji, a famous place of pilgrimage for the Hindus. The road has a great economic significance for the district, as it links the district on the one hand with Ahmedabad, an important centre of trade and industry in the State and the country and on the other with Delhi, the capital of India.

State Highways

State Highways (S. H.) have been defined as all other main, trunk or arterial roads of a State connecting with National Highways of adjacent States, district headquarters and important cities within the State and serving as main arteries of traffic to and from the district roads. These roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department. They have a tar surface and a minimum width of 9·76 metres and are completely motorable throughout the year, except at those places having causeways and submersible bridges, where traffic may be interrupted by heavy rainfall for very short periods.

The total length of the State Highways in the district as on 31st March, 1971, was 331·40 kms. Of these, 68·80 kms., had a cement concrete surface, 230 kms., had a black-topped surface. 3·20 kms., of water-bound-macadam surface and the remaining 29·40 kms., had unmetalled earthen and murum surface. A brief description of each of the State Highways is given below.

(1) *The Radhanpur-Harij-Mehsana-Vijapur-Himatnagar Road (S. H. No. 55)*—The road starts from Radhanpur town in the Banaskantha district and after passing through the Banaskantha and Mehsana districts enters the Sabarkantha district near Derol village of the Himatnagar taluka. Thus this inter-district road passes through three districts in the State, *viz.*,

Banaskantha, Mehsana and Sabarkantha. It meets the Himatnagar-Idar-Khedbrahma-Kheroj State Highway near Himatnagar. The length of the road in the district is 16 kms., which has a black-topped surface, motorable in all the seasons. Importance of this road lies in the fact that it provides shortest route from Rajasthan to Kandla.

(2) *The Himatnagar-Idar-Khedbrahma-Kheroj-Mota Ambaji Road*—It starts from Himatnagar and passes through Idar, Vadali, Khedbrahma and Kheroj and, thereafter, enters the Banaskantha district to reach Mota Ambaji. The total length of the road in the district is 79·20 kms., which has a black-topped surface trafficable during all the seasons. The road links important places in the district like Himatnagar, Idar, etc., with Mota Ambaji, a famous place of pilgrimage for the Hindus in the adjoining district of Banaskantha.

(3) *The Idar-Dholwani-Vijaynagar Road*—This is a section of the Sidhpur-Kheralu-Sipor-Valasana-Idar-Vijaynagar to Rajasthan border road. It bifurcates from the Idar-Khedbrahma road at a distance of 5 kms., near Idar and runs in north-east direction towards Vijaynagar. The portion of the road up to Dholwani which covers a distance of 18 kms., has a black-topped surface while from Dholwani to Vijaynagar, it has an earthen surface.

Importance of the road lies in the fact that it will link Vijaynagar which is largely inhabited by Adivasis and where at present transport facilities are quite inadequate.

(4) *The Vapi-Dharampur-Bansda-Netrang-Rajpipla-Bodeli-Kalol-Godhra-Lunavada-Malpur-Modasa-Raigadh Road up to N. H. 8*—This is one of the important inter-district State Highways. After passing through the areas of the Bulsar, Surat, Broach, Baroda and Panchmahals districts, it enters the Malpur mahal of the Sabarkantha district near village Ankalia. In this district, it passes through the Malpur mahal and Modasa and Himatnagar talukas and finally terminates near Raigadh village of the Himatnagar taluka, which is situated on the Ahmedabad-Delhi National Highway No. 8 Thus the road passes through as many as six districts as aforementioned and connects Himatnagar, the headquarters of the Sabarkantha district, with important places in the State. This road is known as " State Highway No. 5."

The total length of the road in this district is 52·40 kms., which has a black-topped surface. It is an all weather road.

(5) *The Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Bayad-Modasa Road*—It starts from Nadiad in the Kaira district and enters the Sabarkantha district near Barol village of the Bayad taluka. After passing through Demai, Bayad, Dhansura,

Modasa, Tintoi, etc., it finally terminates near Shamalaji, which is situated on the National Highway No. 8. The total length of the road in the district is 72 kms., of which 45·40 kms., have cement concrete surface and black-topped surface in the remaining 26·60 kms. This road is negotiable throughout the year.

(6) *The Naroda-Dehgam-Harsol-Dhansura Road* (*Harsol to Dhansura*) —The road starts from Ahmedabad and upto Harsol, the road is in the M. D. R. category. From Harsol onwards the road runs in eastern direction to reach Dhansura, where it meets the Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Bayad-Modasa State Highway. The length of this section of the State Highway from Harsol to Dhansura is 37·80 kms. Of these 23·40 kms., have cement concrete surface and black topped surface in the remaining 14·40 kms It is an all weather road.

(7) *The Dehgam-Bayad Road*—It starts from Ahmedabad *via* Dehgam and enters the district near Tenpur village of the Bayad taluka. Thereafter, it runs in the eastern direction and meets Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Bayad-Modasa State Highway near Bayad. The total length of the road in the district is 23·20 kms., of which the length of 17·60 kms., has black-topped surface, 3·20 kms., has water-bound-macadam surface and the remaining 2·40 kms., unmetalled. Two major bridges on the Mazum and the Vatrak rivers are under construction.

(8) *The Umedpur-Gadadhar Road*—The road starts from Umedpur on the Modasa-Shamalaji Road and meets the Ahmedabad-Delhi National Highway near Gadadhar of the Bhiloda taluka. The length of this section is 5·80 kms., only, which has a black-topped surface motorable throughout the year.

Major District Roads, Other District Roads and Village Roads

The Major District Roads (M. D. R.) are roughly of the same specifications as State Highways with this difference that their minimum width is 7·32 metres. They connect important marketing centres with railways, State Highways and National Highways. There are Other District Roads (O. D. R.) also which are of the same type as the Major District Roads except that they are subject to more interruptions of traffic during the rainy season. Village Roads are generally unmetalled approach roads from main roads to villages. After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj from April, 1963, the above categories of roads have been transferred to the District Panchayats.

The total length of these roads in charge of the Sabarkantha District Panchayat was 1,183 kms., in 1970-71. Of these, the Major District Roads accounted for 353 kms. Other District Roads for 80 kms., and Village

Roads for 750 kms. Their details are given in the statements that follow.

STATEMENT VII-1

Major District Roads, 1970-71

Sl. No. 1	Name of the Road 2	Length in kms. Metalled 3	Unmetalled 4	Total 5	Remarks 6
1	Idar-Bhiloda-Shamalaji	43.28	..	43.28	All weather
2	Bayad-Sathamba	18.29	..	18.29	,,
3	Bayad-Gabat-Ubhran	16.88	..	16.88	,,
4	Modasa-Meghraj	22.53	..	22.53	,,
5	Meghraj-Undava	..	14.48	14.48	Fair weather
6	Gambhoi-Rupal-Harsol .	16.00	14.57	30.57	,,
7	Himatnagar-Talod-Udedia ..	9.00	15.14	24.14	,,
8	Prantij-Harsol	6.14	11.75	17.89	,,
9	Talod-Majara	..	16.33	16.33	,,
10	Himatnagar-Khed	..	14.88	14.88	,,
11	Himatnagar-Ilol-Davad-Deshotar ..	6.00	18.00	24.00	,,
12	Idar-Valasan-Deshotar	..	14.48	14.48	,,
13	Bhiloda-Pal	..	20.92	20.92	,,
14	Gambhoi-Bhiloda	28.83	..	28.83	All weather
15	Hirad-Poshina-Mamana-Pipala ..	26.00	..	26.00	,,
16	Dhansura-Malpur	.	19.31	19.31	Fair weather
	Total	192.95	159.86	352.81	

STATEMENT VII-2

Other District Roads, 1970-71

Sl. No. 1	Name of the Road 2	Length in kms. Metalled 3	Unmetalled 4	Total 5	Remarks 6
1	Moduka-Punari	.	14.23	14.23	Fair weather
2	Kheroj-Denti-Kotda	..	22.32	22.32	,,
3	Idar-Chandap	..	22.53	22.53	,,
4	Others (below 10 kms.)	..	20.67	20.67	
	Total	..	79.75	79.75	

NOTE : The Harsol-Talod (Major District Road) of 7 kms., length and Medhasan-Sardoi-Bolundra (Other District Road) of 8 kms., length are in charge of the State Public Works Department.

STATEMENT VII·3

Village Roads, 1970-71

Sl. No. 1	Name of the Road 2	Length in kms. 3
1	Meghraj-Shamalaji	27.35
2	Poshina-Delwada-Lambadiya	22.53
3	Bayad-Odha	12.87
4	Vijaynagar-Kanadar]	22.53
5	Vijaynagar-Khokhara	19.31
6	Panchal (approach road)	25.75
7	Sarangpur-Kaliya Kuva	12.87
8	Kasana-Adepur	12.87
9	Others (below 10 kms.)	594.17
	Total	750.25

VEHICLES AND CONVEYANCE

Beasts of Burden—There are certain animals which are used for carrying goods and passengers from one place to another. These are horses, bullocks, camels, donkeys, mules, etc. Their number according to the Livestock Census 1966[1] was : bullocks (over three years) 2,13,575, donkeys 9,651, camels 3,730, horses and ponies 1,467 and mules 23.

Bullock Carts—Prior to the introduction of automobile and locomotive vehicles, bullock cart was the main means of conveyance. Its importance has been reduced in the modern times to some extent for long distance travels because of the growth of road and railway transport. They, however, still occupy an important place in the village economy, which is primarily agricultural. This is clearly evident from the Livestock Census, 1966, which returned 30,231 bullock carts plying in the various parts of the district.

Other Vehicles

Other vehicles in the district are motor trucks, private cars, motor cycles, tractors, trailors, auto rickshaws, etc. In 1970-71, their approximate

1. *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, Vol. IX, No. 1, 1969, pp. 154-157.

strength was, motor cars 740, public and private carriers 693, motor cycles 690, tractors 250, trailors 126, taxis 5 and auto rickshaws 4. Though it is not possible to assess the exact number of bicycles in the absence of registration, it may be said without fear of contradiction that the people use bicycles in increasing number than in the past, as bicycle is the cheapest and most readily available vehicle.

Road Transport

Prior to Independence, on account of the paucity of good roads in the areas in the district, road transport could not be developed. Very little efforts were made either by the former princely States or by the British India Government to develop this important means of communications. The Ahmedabad-Prantij metre gauge railway line constructed by stages between 1897 and 1911 was the only railway running through the district. Thus the transport facilities available in the area were far from satisfactory. In the result, a majority of the villages lacked transport facilities before 1947. The buses were plied by the private contractors on some routes, which covered but a very small area and the villages in the interior were not touched at all. Moreover, for want of requisite resources private operators were not in a position to provide amenities to the travelling public.

In these circumstances, economic development of rural areas was altogether a difficult task. To tide over this difficulty, expansion of road transport was thought of. To link the far-flung villages with comparatively socially and economically developed areas, the road transport system was found to be the most suitable. Government, therefore, decided to develop this means of communication by constructing a net-work of roads traversing the length and breadth of the district. Two important measures such as (a) construction of large number of new roads[1] where none existed and undertaking of repairs to those constructed before, and (b) nationalisation of the road transport system, managed hithertofore by the private transport companies, deserve special mention.

The measure concerning road construction was implemented quickly and the agencies engaged in the construction of roads, such as the Public Works Department and the local authorities like the District Local Boards, were geared up to the new tasks. Necessary financial and material resources were placed at their disposal.

Another step of acquiring ownership, *i. e.*, nationalisation of road transport was started in this part of the old Bombay State in 1949 and was completed in a decade, *i. e.*, by 1958-59. The Sabarkantha district was then placed under the Ahmedabad division of the Bombay State Road Transport

1. This is dealt with in section on 'Roads'.

Corporation. The process of nationalisation in this district started with the establishment of depot at Modasa under the Ahmedabad division in 1949. Subsequently two more depots were opened at Himatnagar and Idar in the year 1955. Even after the formation of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation in 1960, these depots continued under the charge of the Ahmedabad division. However, in April, 1961, a new division was created with headquarters at Himatnagar, when the Vijapur and Mansa depots from Mehsana division were also transferred to the newly created division of Himatnagar. At present, besides these depots, eight control points at Dhansura, Bayad, Demai, Ratanpur, Talod, Prantij, Bhiloda and Khedbrahma are also in existence under the Himatnagar division.

In March, 1970, this division operated 320 routes covering an area of 15,785 route kms. On an average, 31,947 persons travelled on these routes per day per trip as on 31st March, 1970. Important places and taluka headquarter centres in the district are linked with each other. Places of pilgrimage outside the district like Ambaji in the Banaskantha district and Taranga in the Mehsana district have also been connected with the existing road transport system of the Sabarkantha district. Passengers can now get direct travelling facilities to Kesariaji, Udaipur and Nathdwara in the adjoining Rajasthan State through this district. A number of far-flung and isolated villages in this district have now been provided with bus services. A sort of revolution has been achieved by the development of the road transport system of the State. This will be evident from the fact that out of a total of 1,505 villages in the district, as many as 867 or 57·61 per cent have local bus-stops ; 461 or 30·63 per cent have them within 3 kms., and the inhabitants in the remaining 177 villages (11·76 per cent) only have to travel 5 kms., or more to catch a bus. This shows the remarkable progress made by the State Road Transport system in the district after Independence.

RAILWAYS

The district is at present served by the following two metre gauge railway lines :

1 The Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Khedbrahma line (1897)

2 The Himatnagar-Udaipur city line (1961)

Prior to Independence the district was very poorly served by the railways. The former princely States of the Mahi Kantha Agency areas merged in the Sabarkantha district, could not construct any railway line in their territories because of their limited resources. The railway construction was initiated in 1897 when the Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Khedbrahma metre gauge line was laid down. Its construction was completed by stages in 1911. This railway was constructed up to Prantij in the first instance and,

therefore, it came to be called the Ahmedabad-Prantij railway, a name, which still clings to it, even though it (the line) has been extended up to Khedbrahma. This was the first railway line in the district and has played very important part in the economic development of the district. No new railway line was constructed in the district, thereafter, till 1961 when the construction of the Himatnagar-Udaipur metre gauge line was commenced. Thus the district is at present traversed by two metre gauge lines only. No broad gauge line passes through it. The total length of the railways in the district is 158 kms. It has thus 21·46 kms., of railways per 1,000 square kms., and 17·20 kms., per lakh of population.1

Thus the railway facilities in the district even at present are inadequate, as out of the eight talukas and two mahals, three talukas, *viz.*, Modasa, Meghraj and Bayad, and two mahals, *i. e.*, Malpur and Vijaynagar are still without the facilities of the railways. There are only 19 stations in the district as detailed below. Of these 14 are on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line and 5 on the Himatnagar-Udaipur line.

STATEMENT VII·4

Railway Stations by Taluka/Mahal

Khedbrahma	Prantij	Idar	Bayad	Bhiloda
1	2	3	4	5
1. Khedbrahma	1. Kherol	1. Mahadeopura	..	1. Sunak (Sunokh)
	2. Talod	2. Jadar		2 Shamalaji Road
	3. Khari-Amrapur	3. Soor Road		3. Lusadia
	4. Prantij	4. Idar		
	5. Sonasan	5. Kadiadra		
		6. Vadali		

Malpur	Meghraj	Modasa	Vijaynagar	Himatnagar
6	7	8	9	10
.	..	..	..	1. Hapa Road
				2. Himatnagar
				3. Virawada
				4. Raigadh Road

Source :
Western Railway, Time Table.

1. The area figures of the district are according to Surveyor General of India (given in the Desk Dairy, 1971) and relate to the year 1966 while the population figure is based on the 1961 Census.

A brief description of the railway lines is given below.

(1) *Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Khedbrahma* (*M. G.*)—This was the first important railway line constructed in this district in 1897 and was opened by stages in 1911. It was owned by the Ahmedabad-Prantij Railway Company Ltd., but was worked and managed by the Government of India through the agency of the Bombay-Baroda and Central India Railway. The total length of the line in the district is 104·42 kms. Out of 14 railway stations of the district on this line, four are taluka headquarter places. The economic significance of the line lies in the fact that it passes through the fertile track of the district and connects important marketing places, industrial centres and pilgrimage centres like Talod, Prantij, Himatnagar, Idar and Khedbrahma with each other as also with Ahmedabad, an important industrial and commercial centre in the State and the country. The areas through which this line traverses in the district possess good agricultural land producing cotton, groundnut and other oil seeds. Himatnagar is the district headquarters as also the present divisional headquarters of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation. When the road transport was not much developed in the past, this line had played the key role in the socio-economic development of the district.

(2) *Himatnagar-Udaipur* (*M. G.*)—This is the only line constructed in the district after Independence. Its construction was commenced in June, 1961 and was opened for passenger traffic from April, 1966. Out of its total length of 313·99 kms., a length of 53·54 kms., only lies in this district. It starts from Himatnagar, the district headquarters and a junction station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma railway line and leaves the district boundary at the Lusadia station of the Bhiloda taluka to enter into the jurisdiction of the adjoining State of Rajasthan. The line traverses through the difficult hilly terrain and provides a direct and shorter route between West Rajasthan and Ahmedabad. Thus Himatnagar is linked on the one hand with Ahmedabad and on the other with Udaipur (Rajasthan) and through it with the metre gauge system of the country. Its importance also lies in the fact that it feeds the pilgrim traffic of Shamalaji a famous pilgrimage centre visited every year by over a lakh of people.[1]

Thus it could be seen that the railway facilities are not adequate in the district. Though there is considerable passenger and goods traffic on Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line as it passes through the fertile track, traffic is not much developed on the Himatnagar-Udaipur line as it passes through comparatively backward areas of the district. Moreover, the railways have to face keen competition from the road transport. The State Transport buses are plied from Ahmedabad and other important places in the State providing a direct access to Udaipur city, *via.*, Himatnagar. Bus services are both quicker and cheaper. This has also probably adversely affected

1. More details about Shamalaji are given in the Chapter XIX—Places of Interest.

passenger and goods traffic on these two lines. The following statement gives an idea about the passenger and goods traffic at each station in the district in 1969-70.

STATEMENT VII-5

Passenger and Goods Traffic, 1969-70

Name of the Section	Name of the Station	Passenger traffic (Inward and Out-ward)	Goods traffic (in Metric tonnes) (Inward and Out-ward)
1	2	3	4
Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-	1. Kheroj	1,63,849	..
Idar-Khedbrahma (M.G.)	2. Talod	7,60,429	4,81,512
	3. Khari-Amrapur	67,879	..
	4. Prantij	6,42,797	37,156
	5. Sonasan	2,78,130	55,131
	6. Hapa Road	1,00,961	..
	7. Himatnagar	9,18,051	2,84,740
	8. Mahadeopura	70,419	2,510
	9. Jadar Station	1,95,510	46,268
	10. Soor Road	1,09,190	..
	11. Idar	3,29,959	29,990
	12. Kadiadra	1,01,150	..
	13. Vadali	1,84,157	7,400
	14. Khedbrahma	2,83,552	41,206
Himatnagar-Udaipur	15. Viravada	N. A.	N. A.
(M.G.)	16. Raigadh Road	"	"
	17 Sunak	"	"
	18. Shamalaji Road	"	"
	19. Lusadia	"	"

N. A.=Not available

BRIDGES

It would be observed from the account of roads in Mahi Kantha Agency given in the old *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha* that most of the roads in the Agency were unbridged. This was a great bottleneck in the development of the road transport in the district. After Independence, therefore, along with the construction of roads, large amount was also spent for the construction of bridges in the district. Rs. 1,006,455 and 5,507,223 were spent on the construction of bridges in the district in the First and Second Five Year Plans. As a result, almost all the important roads in the district are fairly bridged. The statement below gives the location and other particulars about the major bridges and causeways in the district.

STATEMENT VII-6

Bridges and Causeways

Sl. No. 1	Bridge Causeways 2	Name of the Road 3	Category 4	River / Nallah on which situated 5	Length of bridge in metres 6	Cost of construction 7	Year of construction 8	Remarks 9
						Rs.		
1	Bridge ..	Ahmedabad-Delhi	N. H.	Nadri	50.32	2,24,000	1956	
2	,, ..	Do.	,,	Meshvo	116.81	4,74,000	1960	
3	,, ..	Himatnagar-Idar-Kheroj-Mota Ambaji Road	S. H.	Hathmati	289.56	9,60,000	1958	
4	,, ..	Do.	,,	Valari	53.19	1,45,088	1960	
5	,, ..	Do.	,,	Harnav	234.85	4,15,600	1959	
6	,, ..	Do.	,,	Dukalia (Nallah)	53.34	2,05,596	1968	
7	,, ..	Do.	,,	Baval-Kanthia	45.72	1,30,366	1962	
8	,, ..	Do.	,,	Sabarmati	260.60	10,50,000	1966	
9	,, ..	Godhra-Lunavada-Malpur-Modasa-Raigadh Road	,,	Eru	110.00	..	1965	
10	,, ..	Do.	,,	Vatrak	73.00	2,72,000	1968	
11	,, ..	Do.	,,	Meshvo	120.00	..	1958	
12	,, ..	Umedpur-Gadadhar Road	,,	,,	128.00	3,40,000	1965	
13	,, ..	Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Modasa Road	,,	Vatrak	141.50	..	..	Renovated in 1956
14	,, ..	Do.	,,	Sakri	36.50	..	..	

15	,, ..	Do.	,,	Mazum	76.25	..	1900
16	,, ..	Do.	,,	Meshvo	..	1,41,000	1960
17	,, ..	Naroda-Dehgam-Harsol-Dhansura Road	,,	,,	79.50	..	1868
18	Causeway ..	Do.	,,	,,	141.50	..	..
19	Bridge ..	Do.	,,	Mazum	143.00	..	1959
20	,, ..	Medhasan-Sardoi-Bolundra Road	O.D.R.	Meshvo	64.00	1,80,000	1968
21	,, ..	Prantij-Harsol Road	M.D.R.	Khar.	109.73	5,76,960	1960
22	,, ..	Idar-Bhiloda-Shamalaji Road	,,	Hathmati	104.24	4,24,295	1963
23	Submersible bridge	Do.	,,	Baroli (Nalla)	18.29	69,289	1963
24	High level bridge	Do.	,,	Guhai	137.16	6,04,439	1964
25	,, ..	Do.	,,	Indrasi	24.38	2,47,425	1969
26	,, ..	Prantij-Harsol Road	,,	..	45.72	2,29,650	1970

Source :
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Himatnagar.

TRAVEL AND TOURIST FACILITIES

Travel and tourist facilities available in the district can broadly be classified as follows :

1. *Dharmashalas* and *Sarais*,
2. Guest houses/Rest-houses maintained by the Government, and
3. Private guest houses, lodging and boarding houses, etc.

Dharmashalas and Sarais—*Dharmashalas* are the oldest institutions catering to the facilities of tourists by providing them lodging at practically nominal rates. These are mostly concentrated in places of pilgrimage. These are built generally by some philanthrophic persons and usually maintained by charitable trusts. A traveller has to pay little or nothing to stay in them for a short period.

There were nearly 71 *dharmashalas* spread over all the places in the district. The largest number of *dharmashalas* was found in the Khedbrahma taluka (26) followed by Bhiloda and Prantij each having 17. Bayad and Meghraj talukas and Vijaynagar and Malpur mahals were very poorly served by such types of resting places.

Besides *dharmashalas*, *sarais*, which are meant mostly for Muslims, are also found at Idar, Prantij, Modasa and Himatnagar.

Rest-houses—For providing facilities to the Government servants travelling on official business, rest-houses are provided at important places in the district. These are of three types, *viz.*, the *atithi grih*, which is rest-house of the first rank, the *vishram grih*, a rest-house of the second rank and the *aram grih*, a rest-house of the third rank. Some of them are also open to the public, preference being generally given to the Government servants on duty. They are well furnished with cots, fans, chairs, tables, mattresses, crockery, etc. Besides tea and coffee, meals are also provided in the *atithi* and *vishram grih* on payment. *Atithi* and *vishram grihs* are usually maintained by the State Public Works Department of the State Government while the rest-houses are transferred to the District Panchayats after the introduction of the Panchayati Raj from April, 1963. They are located at the following places in the district.

Guest House (Public Works Department)

1. Himatnagar
2. Modasa
3. Shamalaji

Rest-house (Panchayat)

1. Himatnagar
2. Idar
3. Vadali
4. Khedbrahma
5. Talod
6. Vijaynagar
7. Malpur
8. Bayad
9. Poshina
10. Bhiloda
11. Shamalaji
12. Prantij
13. Tejpur
14. Meghraj
15. Vatrak
16. Dhansura

Private Guest Houses—To meet the growing needs of the travelling public, lodging houses, boarding houses and the combined ones are also run by the private entrepreneurs in the district on professional basis. Such facilities are available in the district at important places like Himatnagar, Idar, Prantij, Modasa, Bhiloda, etc. A majority of the leading lodging and boarding houses in Bombay are owned by the people from Sabarkantha.

RURAL BROADCASTING

The scheme of Rural Broadcasting envisages installation of community listening radio sets in the villages of the State for dissemination of the news about the development programmes and important happenings in the State and the country. The Rural Broadcasting Division of the Directorate of Information, Government of Gujarat, has been entrusted with the task of execution of this scheme, more commonly called the contributory scheme. Under the scheme, villages in the developed districts have to bear the full cost of the installation of the new radio sets, *i. e.*, they do not get any contribution or subsidy from the Government for installation of radio sets, but are given the maintenance contribution to the extent of Rs. 150 for a battery-operated radio sets, Rs. 75 for a transistorised set and Rs. 60 for an electrically-operated set per year. But in the case of the villages situated in the 56 notified economically backward talukas of the State, which include Khedbrahma, Bayad, Meghraj and Bhiloda talukas and Vijaynagar and Malpur mahals of this district, Government gives subsidy to the extent of 33 per cent of the actual cost of the radio set or Rs. 150, whichever is less on installation. However, the maintenance contribution as aforementioned is also provided by the Government irrespective of the nature of the area, developed or otherwise.

Till March, 1971, radio sets installed in the Sabarkantha district under the scheme numbered 538.

Radio communication which has both educative and informative value has proved to be a very powerful medium for mass communication and the scheme of Rural Broadcasting has helped dissemination of knowledge regarding the latest developments in such fields as agriculture, education, public health, co-operation and entertainment by way of drama, light music, film songs, etc.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The administration of the Posts and Telegraphs offices in the district is under the charge of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Gandhinagar Division with headquarters at Ahmedabad.

The postal facilities have tremendously increased in the district after Independence. This is primarily due to the development of transport facilities, especially the road transport, which now connect even the far-flung villages. This will be evident from the fact that there were only 72 post offices in 1951. The number of post offices, however, rose to 168 in 1961, *i. e.*, more than hundred per cent increase in the number of the post offices within a decade. The next ten years were also important from the view point of expansion of postal facilities in the district. From 168 in 1961, the number of post offices increased to 373 in 1971, *i. e.*, here also an increase of more than one hundred per cent. Of these 373 post offices, one was head office at Himatnagar, 36 sub-offices and 336 branch offices located at different places in the district. Although the number of post offices have increased considerably in the district after Independence, many villages in the district are still without the post office facilities. The total number of villages and towns in the district according to 1961 Census was 1,542. These were served by 373 post offices. This shows that 24·18 per cent of the total villages/towns possessed post office facilities.

As regards the telegraph offices, there were 11 non-combined telegraph offices and 28 combined telegraph offices in the district in 1970-71.

TELEPHONES

In the Sabarkantha district, the first telephone exchange was opened at Talod in February, 1955 followed by an opening of the telephone exchange at Himatnagar in November, 1955. Prior to this, there were only public call offices at Talod and Himatnagar. Talod public call office was connected to Ahmedabad in 1953 and to Himatnagar public call office in 1954. In 1955, both these public call offices at Talod and Himatnagar were converted into exchanges. At present, all the important places in the district are connected with 23 stations by trunk lines. Himatnagar, the district headquarters, is linked with Ahmedabad, Idar, Talod, Jadar, Salal and Vijapur by trunk lines.

The following statement shows the present position of telephone facilities available in the district as on 31st March, 1971.

STATEMENT VII·7

Telephones, 1970-71

Sl. No.	Name of the telephone exchange	Total number of connections		Trunk lines	Public Call Offices	
		Main	Extension		Local P.C.O.	Trunk P.C.O.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Himatnagar	288	36	9	1	3
2	Modasa*	235	8	12	1	..
3	Talod	178	22	12	1	..
4	Idar	101	4	9	1	3
5	Dhansura*	81	1	7	1	..
6	Khedbrahma ..	74	1	2	1	..
7	Prantij	57	2	2	1	..
8	Salal	45	..	3	1	..
9	Bayad	39	1	4	1	..
10	Sathamba	32	1	1	1	..
11	Vadali	31	1	2	1	..
12	Tintoi .. .	29	1	..	..	..
13	Gabat	29	1	1	1	..
14	Bhiloda	27	1	1	1	..
15	Jadar	27	1	1	1	..
16	Meghraj	25	1	1	1	..
17	Malpur	25	1	1	1	..
18	Demai . ..	24	1	6	1	..
19	Akrund	19	..	1	1	..
20	Ranasan	19	..	1	1	..

Source : Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Himatnagar.

The statement reveals that except the Vijaynagar mahal, all other taluka/mahal headquarter places possess telephone exchange facilities in the district.

RADIO WIRELESS

There is no broadcasting station in the district. Radio receiving sets which began to be used in the early thirties of this century are becoming increasingly popular day by day. As a result, there were 5,969 radio licence holders in the district on 31st March, 1971.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONAL DIVISIONS.

The two concepts ' Industry ' and ' Occupation ' are quite distinct, though they are very often mistaken for each other. The former signifies a sector of economic activity in which an earner is engaged, such as textile industry, automobile industry, etc., while the latter connotes the exact function that a person performs such as fitter, blacksmith, wireman, etc.

The following Statement VIII·1 shows classification of occupations of persons in this district on the basis of data given in the 1961 Census publication.

STATEMENT VIII·1

Occupational Classification of Persons at Work, other than Cultivation, 1961

Sl. No.	Category	Urban	Rural	Total	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Professional, technical and related workers ..	1 246	904	5,917	7.44
2	Administrative, executive and managerial workers	784	1,153	1,937	2.43
3	Clerical and related workers	1,885	1,956	3,841	4.83
4	Sales workers	3,368	9,611	12,979	16.31
5	Farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers and related workers	409	6,760	7,169	9.01
6	Miners, quarrymen and related workers ..	18	1,166	1,184	1.49
7	Workers in transport and communication occupations	1,041	1,068	2,109	2.65
8	Craftsmen, production process workers and labourers not elsewhere classified ..	6,404	32,759	39,163	49.[illegible]
9	Service, sports and recreation workers ..	1,769	3,478	5,247	6.59
10	Workers not classified by occupation ..	2	21	23	0.[illegible]

Source :
District Census Handbook, 1961, Sabarkantha, pp. 23, 45.

The important categories of occupations were those of craftsmen, production process workers and labourers not else where classified engaging 49·22 per cent of workers followed by sales workers 16·31 per cent and

farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers and related workers 9·01 per cent. It is further seen that the number of persons working in such categories as professional, technical and related workers were larger in the urban areas of the district; whereas those engaged in service, sports and recreation, clerical and related workers, miners, quarrymen and related workers, administrative, executive and managerial workers and workers in transport and communication occupation were relatively larger in the semi-urban and rural areas in comparison to their urban counterparts, because 91·32 per cent of the population of the Sabarkantha district live in the rural areas.

INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

The Housing and Establishments Census conducted for the first time in 1960, has supplied some very interesting and instructive data about the industrial establishments in the Sabarkantha district as shown in the following statement.

STATEMENT VIII-2

Industrial Establishments, 1961

Sl. No.	Description	No. of Units	No. of Persons
1	2	3	4
1	Production of rice, *atta*, etc.	273	837
2	Production of edible fats and oils	49	456
3	Manufacture of sundry hardwares and engineering products ..	236	440
4	Making of textile garments	225	56
5	Manufacture of Chinaware and crockery	1	250
6	Manufacture of structural stone goods, stone dressing and stone crushing	5	213
7	Manufacture of other wood and allied products	75	123
8	Manufacture of shoes and other leather footwear	67	123
9	Manufacture of earthenware and earthen pottery	70	122
10	Cotton ginning, cleaning, pressing and baling	8	105
11	Manufacture of jewellery, etc.	75	96
12	Manufacture of *bidi*	11	85
13	Sawing and planing of wood	12	70
14	Repairing of bicycles and tricycles	27	52
15	Manufacture of soap and other washing and cleaning compounds	8	42
16	Production of other food products	31	39
17	Manufacture of cement and cement products	2	39
18	Manufacture of wooden furniture and fixtures	14	30
19	All other types of printing including lithography with printing industry	4	30

STATEMENT VIII·2—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Description	No. of Units	No. of Persons
1	2	3	4
20	Repairing of motor vehicles	10	29
21	Cotton weaving in handlooms	8	22
22	Repairing of watches and clocks	14	17
23	All types of binding, stitching, sizing and other allied work connected with binding industry	3	10
24	Manufacture of machine tools	4	9
	Others	16	28
	Total	*1,243*	*3,495*
	Grand Total	**1,259**	**3,523**

Source :
Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-A, *Report on Housing and Establishments*, (1963), pp. 241, 242.

The statement reveals that the total number of industrial establishments in the district was 1,259 at the time of 1961 Census and provided employment to 3,523 persons. By far, sizeable employment as usual was provided by the units concerned with the manufacture of food, clothing, etc. There were 353 units engaged in the production of rice, *atta*, edible fats and oils and preparing of other food products. These units engaged 1,332 persons. The units concerned with making of textile garments and in the manufacture of handloom cloth numbered 233 and engaged 278 workers. On account of mechanisation, units concerned with manufacture of hardware and engineering products, sawing and planing of wood, repairing of bicycles, tricycles, motor vehicles and watches and clocks, manufacture of soap and other washing and cleaning preparations, printing presses, manufacture of machine tools, etc., which did not exist in the past have come into existance in recent times. Though, traditional arts in the manufacture of ceramic wares, earthen utensils, etc., leather goods and footwear as also manufacture of gold and silver ornaments and making of laces and fringes have also retained their hold in the district, particularly in the semi-urban and rural areas. The trends in modern living conditions of the people are manifested in the founding of industrial units concerned with the manufacture of wooden furniture and fixtures and tobacco smoking as evident from the fact that there were as many as 14 units in the former and 13 in the latter. There are certain hilly areas in the district and stone crushing industries seem to have been flourishing. These figures give a broad picture of the comparative importance, the household and traditional crafts enjoy even today in the changing pattern of industrial and occupational structure of the district.

The rural/urban composition of certain selected miscellaneous occupations is shown in the following Statement VIII·3.

STATEMENT VIII·3

Number of Persons engaged in Selected Occupations, 1961

Sl. No.	Name of Occupation	Urban	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Physicians, surgeons and dentists	71	234	305
2	Nurses, pharmacists and other Medical and health technicians	102	194	296
3	Teachers	493	2,618	3,111
	(a) Teachers, university	20	7	27
	(b) Teachers, secondary schools	176	138	314
	(c) Teachers, middle and primary schools ..	264	2,378	2,642
	(d) Teachers, nursery and kindergarten school ..	10	30	40
	(e) Teachers (Others)	23	65	88
4	Jurists	61	15	76
5	Arts, Letters and Science	670	2,494	3,164
	(a) Architects, engineers and surveyors	193	60	253
	(b) Biologists, veterinarians, agronomists and related scientists	5	42	47
	(c) Social Scientists and related workers	36	29	65
	(d) Artists, writers and related workers ..	74	464	538
	(e) Draftsmen and science and engineering technicians, n. e. c.	14	3	17
	(f) Other professional, technical and related workers (including ordained and non-ordained religious workers)	348	1,896	2,244
6	Administrators and executive officials of Government	232	539	771
7	Hawkers, pedlars and street vendors	228	1,195	1,423
8	Tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers ..	489	3,741	4,230
9	Jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths	142	609	751
10	Millers, bakers, brewmasters and related food and beverage workers	285	905	1,190
11	House-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers ..	508	896	1,404
12	Barbers, hairdressers, beauticians and related workers	181	746	927
13	Launderers, dry-cleaners and pressers	73	67	140

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, pp. 45 to 64.

The foregoing statement reveals that out of 79,569 workers in different categories in the district at the time of 1961 Census, 78·73 per cent were found working in the rural areas. Further, the professions which returned a large number of workers were tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers (4,230), arts, letters and science (3,164), teachers (3,111), hawkers and street vendors (1,423), and house-keepers, cooks, maids, etc., (1,404) in order. On account of expansion in medical and health facilities, as many as 601 persons were found to be engaged in medical profession in the district. Of these, 428 were found in the rural areas. There were 927 workers engaged in hair-cutting saloons and beauty shops.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

Teachers

The data furnished by the 1961 Census show that 3,111 (males 2,733 and females 378) persons were engaged in the teaching profession, a majority of whom were found in the rural areas. Teachers in primary and middle schools were the highest. The fact that a majority of teachers were working in the rural areas shows the relative expansion of educational facilities in these areas.

Legal

There were 65 legal practitioners and advisers in the district, as on 31st March, 1970. Himatnagar, being the district headquarters had the highest number of such practitioners.

Sl. No.	Name of town	No. of practitioners
1	Modasa	18
2	Idar	16
3	Prantij	4
4	Himatnagar	27
	Total	65

Medicine

The Census of 1961 has returned 601 persons (531 males and 70 females) as engaged in medical profession and other health services. Their details are as under :

Sl. No.	Group	Males	Females	Total
1	Physicians, surgeons and dentists	302	3	305
2	Nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians	229	67	296
	Tota	531	70	601

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 45

Arts, Letters and Science

Under the category " Arts, Letters and Science " the occupations shown in the followsng statement have been considered in 1961 Census.

STATEMENT VIII-4

Number of Persons engaged in Arts, Letters and Science, 1961

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Architects, Engineers and Surveyors	252	1	253
2	Biologists, Veterinarians, Agronomists and related Scientists	47	..	47
3	Social Scientists and related workers	57	8	65
4	Artists, Writers and related workers	529	9	538
5	Draughtsmen and Science and Engineering Technicians, n. e. c.	17	..	17
6	Other Professional, Technical and related workers (including ordained and non-ordained religious workers)	2,096	148	2,244
	Total	**2,998**	**166**	**3,164**

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, pp. 45 to 47

n. e. c. = not elsewhere classified.

Persons grouped under arts, letters and science numbered 3,164. Of these 166 were females. The highest number of workers (2,244) was found in the category of the other professional, technical and related workers including ordained and non-ordained religious workers followed by those working as artists, writers and related workers (538). 253 persons were found working as architects, engineers and surveyors in the district.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Employment in public administration especially in the Government departments is highly valued because of the job security and other amenities connected therewith. The Census of 1961 has returned 771 persons engaged in various branches of public administration in the district. Of these,

State Government employees and village officials were the largest. Their break up is shown below.

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Administrators and Executive Officials, Central Government	8	..	8
2	Administrators and Executive Officials, State Government	235	3	238
3	Administrators and Executive Officials in Quasi-Government Offices	8	..	8
4	Administrators and Executive Officials in Local Bodies	34	2	36
5	Village Officials	460	13	473
6	Administrator and Executive Officials n. e. c. ..	8	..	8
	Total	753	18	771

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, pp. 45 to 64.

n. e. c. = not elswhere classified

AMENITIES TO PUBLIC SERVANTS

The State Government, besides providing such relief as dearness allowance, house rent, compensatory allowance and festival advance, has also made provision for granting loans to Government servants for constructing residential buildings and purchase of vehicles. Residential accommodation is also made available, wherever possible. Government servants are given free medical treatment at Government hospitals and dispensaries. They are also allowed reimbursement of expenses incurred for medical treatment at institutions authorised by Government. Moreover, concessions of leave on average pay for a period of one year and extraordinary leave for another year are also allowed to Government servants suffering from tuberculosis. Sanatorium charges for accommodation and ordinary diet and in special cases, a fixed amount is paid for the specialised diet, medicines and injections within prescribed limits during the period of convalescence of the patients suffering from tuberculosis.

In addition to the above benefits, Government servants are entitled to travel concessions at specified intervale for visiting their home towns. They are also allowed to encash the whole or part of the earned leave and receive average pay and dearness allowance, subject to a maximum of 30 days, once in every two years beginning from January, 1971.

The Central Government and the statutory Corporations like the Life Insurance Corporation have similar schemes calculated to provide relief to their employees.

SELECTED MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Himatnagar, Modasa and Prantij towns were selected for ascertaining the working of certain selected occupations because of their urban characteristics. The information furnished by the local authorities in these towns is embodied in the following statement.

STATEMENT VIII·5

Total Number of Persons engaged in certain Selected Occupations in Himatnagar, Modasa and Prantij towns, 1971

Sl No.	Occupation	No. of establishments	Percentage to total No. of establishments	Persons employed inclusive of employer				Percentage to total No. of persons employed
				Males	Females	Children	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Bakery	8	0.99	11	..	..	11	0.88
2	Hotels, lodging, boarding, restaurants and manufacture of aerated waters ..	182	22.55	421	..	11	432	34.75
3	Sweets and *farsan* ..	36	4.46	42	..	..	42	3.38
4	*Pan-bidi*	127	15.74	145	..	..	145	11.66
5	Hair-cutting saloons ..	92	11.40	104	..	..	104	8.37
6	Flour mills	51	6.32	96	..	..	96	7.72
7	Goldsmiths	53	6.57	60	..	..	60	4.83
8	Laundries	38	4.71	38	..	..	38	3.06
9	Cycle-repairing ..	33	4.08	45	..	..	45	3.62
10	Tailoring	170	21.07	200	..	..	200	16.09
11	Mattresses and pillow makers	11	1.36	13	..	..	13	1.05
12	Dyeing and printing ..	6	0.74	51	6	..	57	4.59
	Total	**807**	**100.00**	**1,226**	**6**	**11**	**1,243**	**100.00**

Source :

Chairmen, Himatnagar, Modasa and Prantij Nagarpalikas.

The statement reveals that hotels, lodging, boarding and restaurants and manufacture of aerated waters (22·55 per cent), tailoring (21·07 per cent) and *pan-bidi* (15·74 per cent) are the most popular among the occupations and jointly account for 59·39 per cent of the total establishments enumerated in towns of Himatnagar, Modasa and Prantij. Others in order are the hair-cutting saloons (11·40 per cent), goldsmiths (6·5 per cent), flour mills (6.32 per cent) and laundries (4·71 per cent).

From the point of employment offered such occupations as the hotels, lodging, boarding, restaurants and manufacture of aerated waters engaged 433 persons or 34·75 per cent, followed by tailoring 16·09 per cent, *pan-bidi* 11·64 per cent, hair-cutting saloons 8·37 per cent and flour mills 7·72 per cent. Other occupations which are important for engaging a sizable number of persons (more than 3 but less than 5 per cent) in order are goldsmithy, dyeing and printing, cycle-repairing, sweets and *farsans* and laundries. The statistics further reveal that none of these establishments, except the dyeing and printing, employed females for subsidiary work. The owners of hotels, lodging, boarding houses, restaurants and manufacture of aerated waters have employed children for cleaning and servicing work.

For the purpose of survey, large, medium and small establishments (one each) in these occupations were selected for collecting such details, as capital requirements, income, rent and wage structure obtaining in these establishments. Following observations have been made concerning these establishments on the basis of survey.

Hotels, Lodging and Boarding Houses and Manufacture of Aerated Waters—There were 182 establishments employing 433 persons including 11 children in these occupations. The survey disclosed that establishments like hotels, restaurants were leading in numbers. Those manufacturing aerated waters were mostly managed by owners themselves, the bigger among them employed salaried workers. It was also found that most of them were housed in rented premises. The average monthly rent ranged between Rs 47 to Rs. 150 and gross income of individual establishments of aerated waters, hotels, restaurants and lodging and boarding ranged from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 9,500 per month, depending upon its size, location, popularity and treatment offered to customers. There was the Sabarkantha District Hotel, Lodge and Sweetmeat Association established in 1963. The owners of these establishments were its members.

Tailoring- There were 170 tailoring units employing 200 persons in the Himatnagar, Modasa and Prantij towns. A majority of them were found to be one-man establishments, though taking minor work such as fixing of buttons, repairing of garments, etc., on daily wages is not uncommon with these shops. Sometimes members of family were engaged on such works. Large concerns employed outside workers. The establishments were housed in their

own premises as well as in rented premises. The rent paid varied from Rs. 6 to Rs. 40 per month. Gross monthly earnings of an individual tailoring concern was reported to vary from Rs. 186 to Rs. 700 depending upon the size, location and popularity of such establishments. There was no association of the tailors in these towns.

Pan-bidi—There were 127 *pan-bidi* shops which employed 145 persons. It was found that the business was run largely on proprietership basis. Most of the units kept and sold additional items like tobacco, perfumery, cigarettes, confectionery, wax candles, aerated waters and other sundry articles as well. They were mostly housed in rented premises. The rent varied from Rs. 20 to Rs. 35 per month. Similarly the earnings of an individual establishment varied from Rs. 680 to Rs. 1,500 per month depending upon its location and quality of goods. It was noticed that some of the large concerns among them, in addition, sold betelnuts in bulk to other shops in the town as well as to some of the adjoining centres in the district, and had larger turnover. There is no association of *pan-bidi* shops in the district.

Hair-cutting Saloons- There were 92 hair-cutting saloons in these towns scattered in different localities and mostly run as proprietary concerns. A majority of them was housed in rented premises paying rent ranging from Rs. 6 to Rs 25 per month. The gross income of an individual concern was reported to vary from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per month depending upon the location, size and skill of the workers. There is an association of the owners of hair-cutting saloons in Himatnagar town formed about eight years ago. It has fifty members at present.

Goldsmithy--The total number of persons working as goldsmiths were sixty, dispersed in 53 establishments. Some of them employed family members. Those shops housed in rented premises paid nearly Rs 40 per month as rent. The gross monthly income of an individual goldsmith varied from Rs 450 to Rs. 1,000. Those who sold prepared ornaments had larger monthly incomes which may go up to Rs. 2,000 or more in the marriage seasons and in festivals like Diwali, etc., though it has been adversely affected on account of the promulgation of the Gold Control Order by the Government of India in 1963. The goldsmiths had an association named "*Sabarkantha Jilla Suvarnakar Sangh*" which was established eight years ago. It has 400 members at present.

Flour Mills—There were in all 51 flour mills in the towns of Himatnagar, Prantij and Modasa. Most of them were one to two men establishments; but large ones employed salaried workers or relatives to meet the demand of the public. The gross monthly earnings of an individual establishment varied from Rs. 350 to Rs. 700. The flour mills were found dispersed in different localities and the rent varied from Rs. 22 to Rs. 60 per month per unit.

Laundries—There were 38 laundries. These establishments are generally found concentrated in thickly populated areas in the towns and are mostly proprietary concerns. They are housed in rented premises and the rent paid by them varied from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 per month. The monthly income of an individual laundry varied from Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 depending upon the size, situation and facilities offered by the concerns.

Sweets and Farsan Shops—There were 36 establishments in the three towns of Himatnagar, Modasa and Prantij. The business of these concerns was more or less seasonal. There was brisk business during the marriage seasons as well as festivals like Diwali, Id, Holi, etc. The monthly gross income of an individual shop varied from Rs. 600 to Rs. 2,000, depending upon its size, situation and quality of products. Only big concerns employed salaried persons, elsewhere, family members were employed to do subsidiary works, and also run the shops in the absence of owners.

Cycle-repairing—There were 33 establishments employing 45 persons. Large concerns among them were reported to sell bicycles besides attending to repairs. A majority of the shops were housed in rented premises, for which monthly rent varied from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10. Similarly the gross monthly earnings of individual concerns varied from Rs. 200 to Rs. 600 per month, depending upon the size and the quality of work done and locality of such establishments. Those who sold new bicycles had even larger incomes. There was no association of the owners of cycle-repairing shops.

Mattresses and Pillow Makers—Only 11 establishments were reported in the three towns in this district. They were organised on a proprietary basis. The survey revealed that gross monthly income of an individual concern varied from Rs. 200 to Rs. 400. These shops were located only in one locality in Himatnagar town and were housed in rented premises and the monthly rent paid varied from Rs. 30 to Rs 50. No association of the owners of these establishments has been formed in this district.

Bakery—These establishments were proprietary concerns and numbered eight in three principal towns of the district. The survey conducted in Himatnagar town disclosed that the monthly turnover of an individual bakery shop varied from Rs. 1,780 to Rs 2,725 showing increasing use of bread, biscuits and other bakery products among all strata of people. The shops were located in different localities. Monthly rent varied from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50. There was no association of bakery owners in the district.

EMPLOYEES' ORGANISATIONS

Inauguration of the planning era in the country has resulted in great expansion of employment at all levels in public service including the Central Government, the State Government and local bodies like

Municipalities, Panchayats, etc., as a large manpower was needed for implementing various development schemes under the Five Year Plans. These employees have formed their respective unions with a view to redressing their grievances. The State Government employees have also formed an organisation called the "*Gujarat Rajya Karmchari Mahamandal*" with branches in the districts, affiliated to it at the State level. The following statement gives names of the 'Employees' Unions registered in the district together with their respective dates of registration and number of members.

Employees' Unions

Sl. No.	Name of the Union	Date of registration	Approximate membership in 1968
1	2	3	4
1	Uttar Gujarat Safai Kamdar Sangh ..	21st March, 1968	154
2	Modasa Gumasta Mandal ..	6th February, 1968	72
3	Shri Sabarkantha Jilla Sahakari Karmachari Mandal, Himatnagar ..	3rd October, 1968	78
4	Modasa Nagar Panchayat Karmachari Mandal, Modasa	4th March, 1965	12
5	Sabarkantha Jilla Panchayat Karmachari Mandal, Prantij	1st July, 1967	101
6	District Panchayat Non-Industrial Employees' Union	10th December, 1969	148
7	District Local Board Employees' Union ..	8th April, 1964	25
8	Talati-*cum*-Mantri Union	..	383
9	The Sabarkantha District Compounders' Union	30th May, 1970	21

Source :

(1) *Annual Administration Report under the Trade Unions Act*, 1926, (1968)

(2) District Development Officer, Himatnagar.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

In any study of economic growth, man-power plays a vital role. The livelihood pattern of the people of a region and the nature and variety of occupations followed by them are conditioned by the stages of economic development and the extent to which all available resources are utilized for socio-economic growth of that region.

The economy as well as the livelihood pattern of the people of Sabarkantha district are mostly agro-based, because 91·32 per cent of its population live in the rural areas, which is even higher than the State average (74·23 per cent in 1961 and 71·87 in 1971)[1] The reasons are that some parts of the Sabarkantha district are covered by hills and forests. Except the Prantij taluka, where the soil is comparatively fertile, at other places beyond a depth of from 3 to 10 ft., the soil is hard and rocky. No large-scale industries have so far been established in the district. According to the 1961 Census, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population accounted for 22·48 per cent. The people are generally poor and backward. However, small-scale and cottage industries have been developed in the district providing gainful employment to the people. The 1961 Census. returned 45·57 per cent of its active population engaged in various economic pursuits in the district, of which agriculture and allied activities alone accounted for 36·91 per cent.

The rest of the population has been divided into workers and non-workers. Out of the total population of 918,587 persons in the district. 4,18,562 persons were engaged in some kind of economic activity. The number of non-workers was 5,00,025. The ratio of workers to non-workers varied from 45·60 to 54·60 as against the corresponding ratio of 41·07 to 58·93 for the State. These figures indicate that the proportion of economically active population in the district was higher by 4·53 per cent than the State average.

The workers were, on the basis of economic activities pursued, classified into the following nine industrial categories by 1961 Census.

1. Census of India 1971, *Provisional Population Totals*, p. 17.

STATEMENT IX·1

Sl. No.	Category of workers	Working population Males	Females	Total	Percentage of total workers
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	As cultivators	173,846	136,507	310,353	74.15
2	As agricultural labourers	18,697	9,943	28,640	6.84
3	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards and allied activities	3,238	1,046	4,284	1.02
4	At household industry ..	13,874	6,783	20,657	4.94
5	In manufacturing other than household industry	4,473	481	4,954	1.18
6	In construction	3,864	999	4,683	1.12
7	In trade and commerce	12,474	1,473	13,947	3.33
8	In transport, storage and communications ..	2,319	25	2,344	0.56
9	In other services	22,174	6,526	28,700	6.86
	Total	254,779	163,783	418,562	100.00

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 22.

It reveals that males out-numbered females in the working population. Further, 80·99 per cent of the working population was engaged in agricultural pursuits as against 68·09 per cent for the State. The proportion of the workers engaged in the agricultural pursuits in the district exceeded that of the State by 12·90 per cent because the economy of the district is predominantly agricultural. The remaining categories of workers accounted for 19·01 per cent only and were dispersed in such economic pursuits as mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, household and non-household industries, *viz.*, trade and commerce, transport and communications, etc.

The following statement shows the distribution of workers under different categories in the rural and urban areas of the district according to the 1961 Census.

STATEMENT IX·2

Categories of Workers in Rural/Urban Areas

Category	Percentage of working population		Total working population (percentage)
	Rural	Urban	
1	2	3	4
(a) Agricultural pursuits .. .	39.34	2.75	36.91
(i) As cultivators	36.05	2.10	33.79
(ii) As agricultural labourers ..	3.29	0.65	3.12
(b) Non-agricultural pursuits ..	7.31	27.66	8.60
(i) At household industry ..	2.27	1.91	2.25
(ii) In mining, quarrying, etc. ..	0.47	0.43	0.47
(iii) In manufacturing other than household industry ..	0.28	4.23	0.54
(iv) In construction . ..	0.10	1.23	0.51
(v) In trade and commerce .	1.17	6.41	1.52
(vi) In transport, storage and communications ..	0.13	1.95	0.25
(vii) In other services	2.59	11.59	3.12

The table reveals that agricultural pursuits obviously preponderate in the rural areas and that the *per capita* pressure on land was higher in this district (93·34 per cent) than the State average of 74·23 per cent in 1961. In the urban areas, the non-agricultural pursuits predominate.

HOUSEHOLD AND NON-HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRIES

An industry is termed household, because it is not run on the scale of a registered factory but is carried on by the head of the household at home or within the village in the rural areas and only at home in the urban areas. According to the 1961 Census, among those engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, 20,657 persons were engaged in household industry and 58,912 persons in non-household industries. Among those engaged in household industry, employees were 2·72 per cent and others were 97·28 per cent. The periods of working in the household industries under the 20 per cent sample survey show that 1,496 households worked for 7 to 9 months, 432 for 4 to 6 months, 134 for 1 to 3 months and 148 for unspecified periods.

Among those engaged in non-household industries, employers accounted for 10·34 per cent, employees 38·34 per cent, single workers 42·61 per cent and family workers 8·71 per cent.

Among the total female workers, the number of single workers (6,820) was the maximum in the district and was followed by those returned as employees (2,184) and family workers (1,245) in order.

PRINCIPAL AND SECONDARY WORK

There were some persons in the working population who were engaged in more than one productive activities which are classified into principal and secondary work.

PERSONS DOING SECONDARY WORK, 1961

(A) Persons working principally as cultivators and doing secondary work.

(i) At household industry 5,667

(ii) As agricultural labourers 1,874

Persons working principally as agricultural labourers and doing secondary work.

(i) At household industry 132

(ii) As cultivators 784

Persons working principally at household industry and doing secondary work.

(i) As cultivators 3,534

(ii) As agricultural labourers 133

(B) Persons working in non-household industry, trade, business, profession or service, who are also engaged in household industry ... 15

The figures show that the agricultural labourers as well as those engaged in household industries preferred to take up cultivation as secondary work to supplement their income. Those wòrking principally as cultivators also preferred to work in household industry as their secondary means of livelihood rather than working as agricultural labourers. A large proportion of workers at household industry also shows the complementry nature of both of these economic activities, *viz.*, cultivation and household industries.

NON-WORKERS

According to 1961 Census, those not engaged in any economic activity, *i. e.*, non-workers were 5,00,025 (2,15,445 males and 2,84,580 females). Their percentage distribution by sex and according to the type of activity performed were as follows.

Among males, 36·87 per cent were students showing spread of education in the district and 61·11 per cent dependents, as against 9·18 per cent students and 52·38 per cent dependents among females. Higher percentage of dependents among males show general absence of household duties among them as against 37·46 per cent among females, who, in addition to attending household chores, also participated in agriculture and allied activities in the rural areas.

Prices

Price mechanism is influenced by the law of demand and supply. Its impact is felt on the entire economy of a region and is reflected in the levels of living of people of that region. The role of prices is not merely passive, *i. e.*, reflecting only the changes in the price levels, but is active and causes far-reaching changes in the entire economy and may either cause inflation or recession or may help recovery of the economic growth of a region.

The Sabarkantha district partially abounds in hills and is largely inhabited by Adivasis, where, in the past, barter system prevailed. As a result, official statistics about the prices of agricultural commodities were not available. However, after the advent of the British in this part of the country towards the early part of the 19th century, attempts were made to collect the price statistics in respect of foodgrains.

The broad trends in the prices of important foodgrains prevailing in this territory is discussed and analysed below for the selected and representative periods of time from the available information:—

(1) From 1850 to 1918 (*i. e.*, upto end of the First World War),
(2) From 1919 to 1938 (interval between the two World Wars),
(3) From 1939 to 1945 (the Second World War), and
(4) From 1946 to 1970 (post-War and post-Independence period).

(1) *From 1850 to 1918*

The prices then prevailing for important foodstuffs in the former Mahikantha Agency areas including Idar State during this period are shown in the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·3

Prices of different Staple Products, Mahi Kantha Agency, 1850 to 1918

(LBS. PER RUPEE)

Produce	1850	1860	1870	1875	1890	1900	1918
Bajri	100	40	35	21	29	21	7
Jowar	80	70	36	20	36	22	9
Rice	36	24	19	15	12	12	7
Wheat .. .	66	34	20	16	29	21	8
Pulse	100	32	36	23	22	16	6
Makai	95	70	45	20	50	18	10

Source :

CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 375 and MASTER FRAMROZ, *Mahikantha Directory*, (1922), p. 32.

IDAR STATE

(SEER OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE)

Year	Wheat		*Bajri*		Maize		Pulse		*Jowar*		Rice	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1912-13	9	14	10	13	12	..	7	..	13	.	7	..
1916-17	..	9	11	15	11	16	5	6	11	14	6	..

Source .

Annual Administration Reports of Idar State

The above statistics show that prices were at a low level in good old days, because of restrictions on movement of produce outside the State, limited size of population, self sufficiency of the village economy and lack of speedy communications facilities. Formerly, the distance to which agricultural produce could go, was limited by the nature of transport available, *i. e.*, bullock carts and *kutcha* roads, with the result that the farm produce was sold within the villages themselves. The cultivator, therefore, could not get remunerative prices for his produce. Barter was, therefore, the order of the day. However, prices were more or less fluctuating even in those days from time to time, though the fluctuations were not pronounced. This will be evident from the fact that one rupee could buy 100 lbs., of *bajri* in 1850, 35 lbs., in 1870, 21 lbs., in 1900, and only 7 lbs., in 1918. Similarly,

a rupee, which could bring 100 lbs. of pulse in 1850 could do so only 6 lbs. in 1918. Thus the prices of the agricultural commodities have shown an upward trend from 1850 to 1918, but sharp rise is noticed from 1914 to 1918 onwards, primarily due to World War I.

Similar trend prevailed in the Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal as will be seen from the following statement.

STATEMENT IX-4

Prices in the Prantij Taluka and Modasa Mahal of the former Ahmedabad District

(SEERS OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE)

Year	Prantij Taluka						Modasa Mahal				
	Bajri S. Ch.	Wheat S. Ch.	Rice S. Ch.	*Math* S. Ch	Gram S. Ch.	*Jowar* S. Ch.	*Bajri* S. Ch.	Wheat S. Ch.	Maize S. Ch.	Sesamum S. Ch.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1881-82	22-14	16-6	21-6	32-0	..		18-12	18-12	21-6	11-6	Ch= Chantak= 5 imperial rupees : 16 Chantaks= 1 seer
1891-92	17-5	14-4	11-11	21-8	16-3	18 12	18-3	14 3	..	9-4	
1901 .	17-11	12-9	7-3	17-13	12-13	19-4	15-10	11-11	15-9	7-5	
1911 ..	12-1	11 11	8 15	17-0	15-3	13-12	12-2	12-13	18-4	5-13	
1918 ..	5-5	5 13	5-0	8-1	18-10	6-12	..	6-5	10 6	4-7	

Source :

Second Revision Settlement Reports of Prantij Taluka and Modasa Mahal, Ahmedabad District, (1925), pp. 49-50.

Effects of World War I began to be felt especially on the price mechanism and the cultivator could now get better returns for his produce than before on account of introduction of mechanised transport resulting in sweeping changes in the country. But the growing industrialisation which loomed large on the horizon attracted labour from villages, hampering agricultural operations. Since the famine of *Vikram Samvat* 1956 (*Chhappanio*) (1900 A. D), there has been a steady but continuous price rise in respect of foodstuffs, which have since then maintained an upward trend. This trend is also reflected in the prices of other essential items like oil, *ghee*, cloth, firewood, etc. This precipitate rise could be attributed to the plague and famine conditions (1896-1900) and powerful impact of the War on the markets at home and abroad. The persons with fixed incomes in the urban areas were the worst hit. For them, the price rise in essential consumption articles, as also fuel and land rents, caused great hardship, as it led to increase in the cost of living Though the cultivating classes could get returns for their produce better than before, the increased cost of production, livestock, etc., had offset their gains from the sale of the farm output to some extent.

(2) *From 1919 to 1938*

Following statistics are available as regards the period from 1919 to 1931, which invariably was the intervening period between the two World Wars.

STATEMENT IX-5

Mahikantha Agency Areas

(PRICE PER MD. OF 40 LBS.)

Year	Wheat Rs. a. p.	*Bajri* Rs. a. p.	*Makai* Rs. a. p.	Rice Rs. a. p.	*Jowar* Rs. a. p.	*Dal (tur)* Rs. a. p.
1918-19	5-0-0	5-11-3	3-13-0	6-2-6	4-7-0	7-4-0
1919-20	4-8-0	2-11-0	2-14-0	7-11-0	3-10-0	8-0-0
1920-21	3-9-0	4-7-6	1-11-0	5-12-0	2-10-0	6-9-0
1921-22	4-0-0	3-10-0	2-14-0	5-11-0	2-14-0	5-0-0

Source :
Statistical Supplement, Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha, 1926.

Prices in Idar State

(SEER OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE)

Year	Wheat		*Bajri*		Maize		Pulse		*Jowar*		Rice	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1919-20	4½	6	4	7	5	8	2¼	3	5	6	3	4½
1920-21	5¼	8	5½	7	8	..	2½	..	6	7	4	..
1925-26	6½	7	7	11¼	10	11½	3	5	7	11	1	..
1930-31	11½	16	10	11	12	16	5	..	10	18	5	7

Source :
Annual Administration Reports of the Idar State.

As the aftermath of the War (1914-18), the prices of essential commodities went up steadily, and touched a new high during the period from 1914 and 1918. On the cessation of the hostilities, the price situation began to become normalized. However, prices of foodgrains rose, due to an inadequate rainfall in 1926. But there was some respite in the prices of essential commodities for some years as can be seen from the Statement IX-6 appended at the end of the chapter. But the Wall Street (stock market) crash in 1929 in the United States of America created a major

upheaval in prices. This period which began from 1929 is important in the history of price fluctuations in major parts of the world including India and is known as the " Great Slump". The effects of fall in prices were far-reaching. It caused trade recession, stagnancy in production and mal-adjustment in costs and prices. As a result, the prices of agricultural commodities crashed which adversely affected agriculturists.

(3) *From 1939 to 1945*

The worst effects of the slump began to wear off after 1937-38 and the price level began showing signs of recovery to some extent. However, during the four years from 1936 to 1940 there were fluctuations because of the outbreak of World War II in 1939. Moreover, there was scarcity of fodder and to some extent of foodgrains at home. The definite improvement in agricultural prices in particular was recorded only from 1941 onwards, as World War II progressed after the involvement of Japan in the War.

The following statement shows prices prevalent at important centres in the district in this period.

STATEMENT IX·7

Prices of Foodgrains at different Centres in Sabarkantha District

(SEERS OF 40 TOLAS PER RUPEE) (RS. AND PAISE PER 20 KILO)

Sl. No.	Name of the Commodity	Modasa Taluka					Himatnagar Taluka		
		Year					Year		
		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1942	1943	1944
1	*Bajri*	26.00	20.00	22.00	24.00	24.00	3.30	1.00	3.25
2	Rice	16.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
3	Wheat	26.00	16.1	11.00	14.00	14.[illegible]0	2.50	4.00	4.00
4	*Makai*	36.00	21.1	23.00	25.00	25.00	2.50	3.00	2.75
5	*Tur dal*	16.00	11.1	10.00	10.00	10.00	4.50	4.50	[illegible]
6	Gram	22.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00			..
7	*Til*	19.00	11.00		.		.	.	..
8	*Jowar*	..		.			4.00	4.00	5.30
9	*Mag*						3.50	6.50	6.00
10	Blackgram	..	.	.			8.00	8.00	7.50
11	Groundnut	.		..		..	5.00	8.00	8.00

STATEMENT IX·7—*concld.*

Prices of Foodgrains at different Centres in Sabarkantha District

(RS. PER BANGALI MD.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Commodity	Prantij Taluka — Year 1938-39 Rs. a. p.	1939-40 Rs. a. p.	1940 41 Rs. a. p.	1941-42 Rs. a. p.	1942-43 Rs. a. p.	1943-44 Rs. a. p.	1944-45 Rs. a. p.
1	*Jowar* .	3-12-0 3-15-0	3-2-0 3-14-0	5-5-0 5-12-0	12-2-0 13-4-0	9-2-0 9-14-0	12-12-0 13-0-0	9-2-0 9-12-0
2	*Bajri* .	3-3-0 3-13-0	2-2-0 2-8-0	5-6-0 6-0-0	9-4-0 10-6-0	10-0-0 10-6-0	9-13-0 10-4-0	9-6-0 9-15-0
3	Wheat ..	3-3-0 3-13-0	4-2-0 4-14-0	4-3-0 4-14-0	15-5-0 16-0-0	12-9-0 13-2-0	14-8-0 16-0-0	12-4-0 12-15-0
4	Rice .. .	6-6-0 6-14-0	.. ..	.. ..	21-2-0 22-0-0	21-4-0 21-14-0	21-0-0 21-8-0	21-2-0 21-14-0
5	Gram ..	3-3-0 3-15-0	4-2-0 4-14-0	4-2-0 4-14-0	9-6-0 9-13-0	9-6-0 10-2-0	9-6-0 10-6-0	0-6-0 10-6-0
6	*Math*	3-2-0 3-14-0	3-3-0 3-15-0	4-3-0 4-13-0	6-1-0 6-7-0	9-3-0 9-13-0	6-6-0 6-14-0	12-4-0 12-11-0

Source :
District Development Officer, Himatnagar, Sabarkantha District.

The rise in prices was further accentuated by the tempo of increased industrial activity, as large quantities of material were required for War purposes coupled with rise in public demand for more consumer goods. Thus on account of large scale diversion of essential goods for War purposes, essential consumer goods became almost scarce. The purchasing power of common man increased during War time resulting in a price inflation, hoarding, profiteering, speculation, etc. The price level in essential consumer articles increased rapidly. In the Prantij taluka, a maund of *jowar* which was sold at Rs. 3-12-0 in 1938-39 could be purchased at Rs. 9-12-0 in 1944-45 ; similarly the prices of *bajri* went up from Rs. 3-3-0 in 1938-39 to Rs. 9-15-0, wheat from Rs 3-3-0 to Rs. 12-15-0, gram from Rs. 3-3-0 to Rs. 10-6-0 and *math* from Rs 3-2-0 to Rs. 12-11-0 during the same period. This was the position in the adjoining Modasa mahal also. The situation was thus far too serious as economic condition of the weaker sections of the community and the middle classes had deteriorated considerably. In order to dealt with all aspects of the problem comprehensively, the Government of India initiated various price control measures and desired the princely States to follow suit. Thus the States administration also took steps to enlist public co-operation and decided to open controlled shops to provide foodgrains and other essential commodities like cloth, kerosene, etc , at reasonable rates to the community.

In order to meet the abnormal economic conditions arising out of the War particularly scarcity of foodgrains, the Government of India adopted certain measures such as (1) the introduction of "Grow More Food Campaign", (2) import of foodgrains from outside, and (3) distribution of available supplies on an equitable basis. Thus, foodgrains, sugar, *gur*, cloth, kerosene and groundnut oil were supplied at controlled rates on ration cards through the fair price shops, cheap grain shops, co-operative stores, etc.

(4) *From 1946 to 1970*

The Second World War ended in 1945. After Independence (1947), the country witnessed partition and the national economy was subjected to unprecedented strains and stresses by the influx of refugees from Pakistan and shortage of essential foodgrains on account of the transfer of certain fertile lands to Pakistan. In 1950, the Government of India set up the Planning Commission for undertaking an integrated development of the country. The Commission formulated the First Five Year Plan in 1951. It aimed at substantial investment in essential sectors like agriculture, industry, social services, education, health, etc. This had an inflationary impact on the price mechanism as in the initial period of the Plan, production did not show an adequate increase. Thus the shortage of essential goods produced a precipitate rise in the prices. Secondly, since 1921, there has been a steady growth in India's population in general and the Sabarkantha district is no exception. Though food production also increased on account of large outlays on agriculture, it was neutralised by the continuous increase in population. On account of implementation of the Five Year Plans, there has been an increase in the *per capita* incomes of different strata of the society without the corresponding increase in production in terms of consumer goods. Thus, the people's propensity to spend resulted in monetary inflation and the resultant price rise. During the entire period, prices have risen abnormally except for a precipitate fall in 1952 when the Government was compelled to increase the bank rate as an anti-inflationary measure. Consequently, the prices of foodgrains declined considerably. The nature also helped a lot because of favourable monsoons from 1952 to 1954 in a row. Against this background, the position about the prevailing prices of important agricultural commodities from 1946 to 1969 ruling the markets of Himatnagar, Khedbrahma Modasa, Vijaynagar and Prantij are shown in the statements appended at the end of the chapter.

The data about prices prevailing at different centres in the district are given in the statements appended to the chapter.

The tables reveal that prices remained more or less stable at Himatnagar and Khedbrahma during the period from 1948 to 1960 Wheat was sold at

Khedbrahma at Rs. 8 per maund in 1948, and it could be had at Rs. 10 in 1960. Rice could be had for Rs. 10 in 1948 and Rs. 12 in 1960, showing only a marginal increase. However, after 1960, prices have soared abnormally. The most significant rise has been noticed in respect of purchase price of pulses, cotton and groundnut. The prices of gram rose from Rs. 2·60 to Rs. 6·50, cotton from Rs. 12 to Rs. 25 and groundnut seeds from Rs. 5 to Rs. 12 for one maund in Khedbrahma. In Himatnagar, prices of rice rose from Rs. 8 in 1948 to Rs. 18 in 1960 for a quantity of 20 kilograms. Those of groundnut rose from Rs. 8·50 in 1948 to Rs. 22 in 1960 for 20 kilograms. Here the price rise is nearly 150 per cent, which told heavily on the lower income groups and the middle classes. Government was, therefore, obliged to initiate several steps to remedy the situation. In the first instance, fair price shops at convenient places were opened. A system of family ration cards was introduced and families in low income groups were given at reasonable rates essential articles on those ration cards. This gave much relief to the people. Yet the two external aggressions in 1962 and 1965 accentuated the price rise in respect of wheat, rice, *jowar*, *bajri*, groundnut and groundnut oil and other consumer commodities. Government had, therefore, to place restrictions on hoarding foodgrains by the people.

So far as the Sabarkantha district was concerned, there was sufficient rain-fall yielding good harvest. This led to a slight fall in the prices of essential commodities. For example, price of wheat declined from Rs. 55 per quintal in 1959 to Rs. 47·75 in 1961, other commodities also followed suit. However, there were scarcity conditions in the district during the periods of 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1969-70 accentuating the price rise still further. The average price of *bajri* rose from Rs. 8 in 1961 to Rs. 15 in 1970 for 20 kilograms, that of rice from Rs. 17 to Rs. 37, and groundnut oil from Rs. 2·15 to Rs. 4·75 per kilogram. Thus it can be said that prices have arisen abnormally in the post-Independence period as can be seen from the statement.

In short, the following reasons can be attributed to the persistent and significant price rise in this period : (1) increase of population, (2) large monetary outlays under the Plans, (3) mounting taxation, (4) inadequacy of food and other supplies necessitating imports, and (5) large scale hoarding by traders. It is hoped that measures taken by Government for bringing down prices will bear fruit in future.

Wages

Wages generally signify all remuneration capable of being expressed in the terms of money paid to a person for the work done by him. The level of wages obtaining at a particular period throw sufficient light on the

prevailing economic condition of a region and living standards of its people. Variations in prices on account of fiscal policies and other factors, such as the rise in demand, shortage of goods, insufficient production, etc., generally influence the wage level. The Sabarkantha district came into existence as a homogeneous district in 1949 as a result of merger of the princely States and Estates like Idar, Sathamba, Mohanpur, Vijaynagar, etc. According to the 1961 Census, the district has 13·94 per cent Adivasi population and 8·54 per cent backward classes. The livelihood pattern, therefore, of the people in this area is mainly based on availability of the inferior agricultural produce. Wages paid to these persons are consequently low, as part of the remuneration is paid in kind, which is the normal feature of the rural economy dominated by barter. The position of wages prevailing in the Mahi Kantha Agency areas, from which the major portion of the present Sabarkantha district has been carved out, is aptly described in the following terms in the former *Gazetteer on Mahi-Kantha.*

"In 1850 Kolis and other field labourers were paid 2 *annas* a day, smiths, bricklayers, masons and carpenters 5 *annas*, and tailors 4 *annas*. In 1870-71 the daily wages of Kolis and other field labourers rose to 3 *annas*, and that of smiths, bricklayers, masons, and carpenters to 8 *annas*. These rates still continue. Day labourers are generally kolis, who offer their services either as partners or as field workers. As partners they usually receive a third or a fourth of the crop, and as workers, if engaged for the whole year, a total payment of about 6 *mans* of grain, and if engaged only for a time 1½ *annas* worth of grain, besides food for the day. Women and children are employed as day-labourers; the women in most cases getting as much as a man, the children 1 *anna* worth of a grain besides food for the day. Payments for field work are in grain not in cash. For other than field work, the daily wage of a labourer is for a man 2-3 *annas*; for a women 1½-2½ *annas* and for a child 1-1½ *annas*"[1]

The above paragraph describes the amounts of wages paid to different workers but their service conditions as described in the said *Gazetteer* were as under :

"Sometimes a labourer raises money by mortgaging his labour for four or five years. The bondman's services are valued from Rs. 24 to Rs. 60 a year. And for an advance of Rs. 100 many men would be willing to serve for any time upto five years. In cases where the labourer engages to supply loads of grass or fire wood he is allowed to work at odd times for his own benefits, but if a man has mortgaged his labour without reservation, the whole of his earnings are his

1. CAMPBELL J. M, *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 374.

master's. In no case does the money-lender's claim extend to the labour of the bondmen's wife or child. Men in the position of these labourers are fed and housed by their master's. But the master does not meet the cost of a birth or other ceremony in the bondman's family. The master cannot make over his rights to any other person, and cannot by corporal punishment or other means enforce the bondman's services."

"The old system of hereditary service is still kept up in the houses of some Rajput and Koli Chiefs. The servants called boys-*chhokra* and girls-*chhokri*, are with their families bred and maintained in their master's house at his expense. They are generally faithful to their masters. No instance is known of one of these servants being tempted by the chance of good wages to leave his master. As far as food, clothes and lodging go, they are better off than other families of the same class."[1]

This was the position regarding wage-conditions prior to 1880. No statistics are available for the next three decades. It may, however, be surmised that in the static conditions of those days, wages might have increased only marginally. In the State of Idar, which was the only class-I State in Mahi Kantha Agency, the position of wages was as under between 1906 and 1923.

"There was no rise perceptible in the rates of skilled or unskilled labourers during the year. The wages of unskilled labourers continued between 3 - 4 *annas* per day.[2]" Since then the wage rates in different categories have gone up on account of increase in the prices of foodgrains. The Settlement Report writes about the wage rates in the Modasa mahal and the Prantij taluka in 1925 in the following terms.

"Wages have risen considerably and a chief complaint of every well-to-do cultivator is the dearth of labourers and high wages. About 30 years ago, the day labourer was available at 2 *annas* per day with meals and 4 *annas* without meals. Now he is paid 6 *annas* per day with meals and 8-12 *annas* without meals rising upto a rupee in the busy parts of the season. Besides, the labourer now works for a shorter time than before coming late in the morning and closing work early in the evening. About 30 years ago a labourer employed on the well received Rs. 20 for the season with food and clothing. Now he is paid from Rs. 60 to 80 with food and clothing."[3]

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1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), pp. 37?-74.

2. *Annual Administration Report of Idar State.*

3. *II Revision Settlement of Prantij Taluka and Modasa Mahal*, Ahmedabad District, 1926, p. 7.

In the context of the foregoing facts, it is clear that wages have increased in all fields. For the labouring classes, the rise in prices of commodities was followed by the substantial rise in their wages. In this district, the unskilled labourer, who was paid either in cash or in kind, had, because of improvement in his economic position, become more mobile and migrated to industrial towns for better paid jobs particularly Ahmedabad. As a result agricultural labourers were not easily available. The scarcity of labour seriously hampered agricultural operations. Agriculturists were, therefore, obliged to pay more for labour. But they were better off because, price rice in respect of agricultural commodities put more purchasing power in their hands.

The position of wages in Idar State during 1931-32 is described below.

> "There was only a small decrease in the scale of wages in most of the talukas of the State. Some sort of control was exercised to check the labour to have the same wages as prevailed formerly when the rates of staple food and daily necessaries were comparatively lower than those prevailing now."

The slump reprecussions of 1929 were world-wide. Wages followed the course of the downward trend in prices and caused great hardship to wage earners. But the non-availability of data on wages upto the year 1957 makes it impossible to indicate the exact trend of wages during this period. However, broad trends are discussed on the analogy of prices, that the wages also generally exhibited the same tendency.

In the former Mohanpur State, the wages for skilled labourers such as carpenters, masons, and blacksmiths, varied from Re. 1·0·0 to Rs. 1·8·0 per day and those for unskilled labourers were 3 *annas* for a boy, 4 *annas* for a female and 5 to 6 *annas* for a male per day in the year 1940-41. The out-break of the Second World War in 1939 led to improvement in wages. The War created a demand for artisans and agricultural workers. The prices of all essential consumer goods soared up. Although the price control measures were adopted by the Government, there was a continuous rise in wages.

After Independence and the subsequent integration of the princely States into the Indian Union, the wage-trends gradually began to be influenced by the conditions prevailing in other parts of the State. As a result, the remuneration paid to different categories of workers came to be governed by the general law of supply and demand, nature of work done and the skill and aptitude required.

The average daily wages for different categories of agricultural workers in the Himatnagar taluka from 1957 to 1968 and other talukas for the

period from 1964 to 1968 are given in Statement IX·10 appended at the end of the chapter.

The statistics show that the fluctuations in wages of skilled workers were comparatively less marked than those of the field and other agricultural labourers. The wage level, in general, has shown a rising trend, reflecting a rise in the prices of consumer goods and effects of inflationary pressures generated by increased industrial and development activities in the country consequent on the implementation of the Five Year Plans. The rates of wages have increased considerably and labourers have to work 8 hours normally. Thus, the increase in the wage rate and limi , maximum working hours have generally improved the economic condition of the workers.

STANDARD OF LIVING

Information about the prevalent standards of living of the various strata of society is useful in understanding the general economic condition of the people. The standard of living of the people is dependent on two factors, namely, the total income that a family earns and the total expenditure that it incurs for maintaining a comfortable standard of living. For this purpose, a survey of the family budgets of different sections of the society both in the rural and urban areas of the district was undertaken in 1971. To represent urban areas, the towns of Himatnagar and Modasa were selected because of their large population. To represent rural areas 8 villages were selected from different parts of the district so as to get a tolerably representative picture of the standard of living in villages.

Urban Sector

The total urban population of the district according to the provisional figures supplied by the 1971 Census is 103,063 which is 8·68 per cent of the district population—the least among all districts of the Gujarat State. The district has 5 towns none of which has a population of more than 25,000 souls. Himatnagar, the district headquarters, is the largest town with a population of 23,745, followed by Modasa with a population of 22,465 persons.

For the purpose of survey, about 58 families from Himatnagar and Modasa were selected to represent the urban society. The urban society was classified into three income groups, *viz.*, (i) Group I—comprising families with an annual income of Rs. 2,000 or less, (ii) group II—consisting of families with an annual income between Rs. 2,001 and 5,000 and (iii) Group III—representing families with an annual income above Rs. 5,000.

Group I (*Lower Income Group*)—This income group comprises mainly unskilled and semi-skilled labourers, shop assistants, clerical staff, petty artisans, etc. A total of 20 families were surveyed from this group. It was found that 17 of them were in debt as their expenses far exceeded their incomes. The average debt per family amounted to about Rs. 400. To meet the regular deficit in their monthly budgets, they adopted various measures. Most of them borrowed from relatives, friends of money-lenders. Many of them postponed payment of a part or the whole of one of the bills in turn. As regards their expenditure pattern, food accounted for about 65 per cent of the total. The food taken by them was inferior in quality. Fruits, sweets and milk were almost absent from their daily diet. Clothing accounted for about 8 per cent of their expenditure. Thus almost 75 per cent of their expenditure was spent on food and clothing, leaving very little for the comforts of life. Most of them lived in hired houses and paid rent varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 per month. Tea and *beedi* accounted for 7 per cent each. Their household equipments were few and simple consisting mainly of metal utensils, simple beddings and a cot or two. Only 33 per cent of the members in the families surveyed were literate.

Group II (*Middle Income Group*)—This income group constists of the lower middle class families comprising school teachers, small traders, petty shop-keepers, Government servants, etc. 21 families were surveyed from this group. The average monthly income of a family amounted to Rs. 260, while the average monthly expenditure was reported at more than Rs. 300, thus leaving a deficit of Rs. 40 per month. None of the families surveyed had a surplus budget. About 45 per cent were in debt, while the rest managed any how to balance their budgets. The highest debt reported by a family was Rs. 2,300. The debt was usually incurred to meet special expenditure for marriage or other social occasions.

Regarding expenditure, 55 to 60 per cent of the total was spent on food which mainly consisted of cereals. Clothing accounted for 11 per cent, housing accounted for 7 per cent and education for nearly 5 per cent. Variations in expenditure under each item such as food, clothing, education, etc., indicate the difference in the level of living between the two income groups. Nearly 25 per cent of the families lived in their own houses. Their household equipment included a simple set of furniture such as a chair and a table, a few metal utensils, etc. A few of them owned a radio. The literacy percentage was 73, much higher than in Group I.

Group III (*Upper Income Group*)—This group consists of Government servants of higher grade, medical practitioners, lawyers, proprietors of industrial establishments, etc. 17 families were surveyed from this group. The annual income of families belonging to this group varied from Rs. 5,000 to about Rs. 20,000 per year. However, the average annual

income of the family was estimated at Rs. 8,000 and the expenditure at Rs. 6,000 showing an annual surplus of Rs. 2,000. All families, except one, reported surplus budgets. They had regular savings which they either deposited with banks or invested in business.

Their expenditure pattern was much different from that found in the previous two groups. They spent about 50 per cent on food, 15 per cent on clothing, 10 per cent on education and 5 per cent on entertainments. Most of them lived in their own houses. Those who lived in rented premises paid rent which formed on an average about 15 per cent of their total expenditure. They owned radio sets, costly items of furniture and precious ornaments. Their standard of living was satisfactory. Though many saved regularly, few could not, as with every increase in their income, there was a corresponding rise in their expenditure also. The percentage of literacy in this group was 76, the highest among all groups, both in urban and rural areas.

Rural Sector

Among all the districts of Gujarat (except the Dangs which is entirely rural), Sabarkantha has the largest proportion of rural population. According to the 1961 Census, 93·34 per cent of its total population was rural. The provisional figures of the 1971 Census put this percentage at 91·32. The rural sector of the district is predominantly agricultural in character, as nearly 80 per cent of its working population is dependent on agriculture. Moreover, the level of income and the pattern of expenditure in rural areas differ to a great extent from those found in the urban areas. Further, unlike in urban areas the assessment of the standard living in rural areas is difficult and complicated. There are several reasons for that. Firstly even at present, a large number of cultivators in the Adivasi areas follow the barter system of transactions. They deposit their entire produce with the village trader and in exchange obtain their requirements from him throughout the year. Secondly, the agricultural population is sometimes also engaged in other allied activities, income from which is uncertain. Thirdly, there are many cultivators who do not purchase foodgrains from the market as they produce the foodgrains themselves. Fourthly, the village people hardly keep regular accounts of their income and expenditure. Lastly, they do not consider their requirements in terms of money. They are also hesitant to give correct information to Government agencies for fear of taxation. As a result, it is difficult to form a correct and complete idea about the prevailing standard of living in rural areas on the basis of the family budget survey of this type. Attempt is, however, made to give a broad and representative picture of the standard of living of the people in the rural sector.

The rural population can be divided into two main groups : (i) agriculturists and (ii) non-agriculturists.

Agriculturists

The agriculturists can be considered under three different categories according to the size of their holdings, *viz.*, (a) small cultivators with holdings of less than 5 acres, (b) medium cultivators possessing less than 25 but more than 5 acres and (c) large cultivators possessing more than 25 acres. The following statement shows the number of small, medium and large land holders in the district.

Agricultural holdings (1969-70)

Size of holding (in acres)	No. of holders	Percentage to total holders	Area held (in acres)	Percentage to total area held
1	2	3	4	5
Upto 5 acres ..	74,507	52.5	195,698	18.5
Over 5 and upto 25 acres	63,198	44.5	596,451	56.3
Over 25 and upto 100 acres	4,191	2.9	165,300	15.6
Over 100 acres ..	152	0.1	101,709	9.6
Total .. .	**142,048**	**100.0**	**1,059,158**	**100.0**

Source :
Collector, Sabarkantha District.

The above statement gives a clear picture of the pattern of land holdings in the district. More than half (52·5 per cent) of the agriculturists are small holders occupying between them only 18·5 per cent of the total area of holdings. About 44·5 per cent of the agriculturists can be termed as medium cultivators. As they hold 56·3 per cent of the area, there is concentration of land ownership in this group. About 3 per cent of the agriculturists are large cultivators who occupy between them more than 25 per cent of the total agricultural land in the district. Each of them has more than 25 acres of land.

Small Cultivators—This group comprises cultivators holding less than 5 acres. Many of those included in this group also work as agricultural labourers or resort to allied occupations to supplement their income. This class mainly consists of the Adivasis who do not follow improved methods of agriculture. Most of them have no houses in villages, but they live a segregated life in the fields. The talukas of Khedbrahma and Bhiloda and Vijaynagar mahal have predominantly Adivasi cultivators. Most of the small cultivators were found in debt. As a customary practice, many of them sell in advance their standing crops to traders without fixing the price and in exchange, purchase articles of their daily consumption from them, who thus combine the functions of a buyer, a seller and a money-lender. There are many small cultivators in this district, who thus sell their entire produce to a single trader. Thus, one trader has a fixed and permanent clientele. 45 families from this group were surveyed. The average size of a family

was 6 of whom 3 were earners including a female. It was difficult to form a correct idea about their incomes in terms of money for the reasons mentioned earlier. For similar reasons, it was also difficult to obtain a clear picture of their expenditure pattern. However, it was found that most of their earnings were spent on food, clothing, tea and tobacco. While food accounted for about 65 per cent, clothing accounted for 10 per cent and tea and tobacco about 8 per cent. Another important item of their expenditure was that of social customs and religious ceremonies on which they incurred heavy expenditure even by borrowing from outside. Besides landed property, most of them owned *kutcha* houses built of mud and covered with thatched roofs. A few of them owned 1 or 2 heads of cattle and a cart. The percentage of literacy was 37.

Medium Cultivators—The medium cultivators formed about 45 per cent of the total cultivators in the district. They consisted of Patels, Kampawallas and others. The land in their possession varied between 5 and 25 acres. Their economic condition largely depend on monsoon rain. During a fairly good year they produce enough to save and invest for agricultural development. But during lean years, they are in a predicament. 41 families from this group were surveyed. The average size of their family was 7 persons and the number of earners per family varied from 2 to 4. Most of the family members including female members helped in carrying out various agricultural operations and looked after the livestock. The main source of their income was farming in which maize, groundnut and cotton were important. Their earnings in terms of money were influenced greatly by sharp fluctutations in prices as a little rise or fall in prices of their produce immediately affected their economic condition. On an average, they lived a fairly satisfactory life. Of the families surveyed, only a few showed deficit budgets.

Their expenditure pattern showed that about 55 per cent was spent on food. Clothing accounted for 12 per cent indicating their better economic condition as compared to the small cultivators. Expenditure on tea and tobacco varied from 5 to 10 per cent. Miscellaneous expenditure on social customs, medical treatment, education, etc., claimed about 15 per cent. 65 per cent of the families lived in their own houses, some of which were *pucca* built. A few of them had more than one house, the additional one being in the farm. They owned livestock consisting of bullocks, buffaloes and cows. Some of them (22 per cent) owned radio sets, bicycles, wrist watches, etc However, their household belongings were few and simple consisting of cots and metal utensils. Silver and gold ornaments were possessed by only a few. About 36 per cent of the members were literate.

Large Cultivators—The large cultivators form the top stratum of the village community. It includes cultivators with more than 25 acres of land. 32 families from this group were surveyed. These cultivators were really

economically well-to-do and progressive and politically powerful. They lived in *pucca* well-built houses. Most of them owned more than one house and many owned luxury articles such as transistors radios, precious ornaments, etc. They saved regularly and invested their savings either in agriculture or in purchasing precious articles. Most of the Kampawallas were included in this class. A majority of their family members were earning members. However, many employed hired labour to supplement family labour because of their large holdings. The average income of a family was estimated at Rs. 9,000 per year. The average expenditure came to about Rs. 6,000 showing an annual surplus of about Rs. 3,000. Most of the families were able to save regularly. Their expenditure on food could not be calculated in terms of money as most of their requirements of food, milk, vegetables, etc., were met from their own produce. However, it was estimated that on an average, they incurred about 60 per cent of the total expenditure on food which included cereals, pulses, vegetables, etc. Clothing accounted for 13 per cent. About 6 per cent was spent on tea, *beedi*, tobacco, etc. Education accounted for barely 3 per cent. On an average each family had 8 to 10 animals consisting of bullocks, buffaloes, cows, etc. Besides the ordinary agricultural implements, many had oil engines and electric motors. About 60 per cent of them owned radios, bicycles, wrist watches, etc. The percentage of literacy was 54, the highest among all the income groups in rural areas.

Non-agriculturists

Among the non-agriculturists may be included village traders, school teachers, village level functionaries, artisans, etc. Of them, traders represent a distinct group which is economically much better off as compared to the rest. The volume of business of the village traders varies according to the village population as well as the economic condition of the people inhabiting the village. The typical village trader is generally a buyer, a seller and a money-lender all rolled into one. He purchases the agricultural produce of the cultivator, sells him his daily requirements such as sugar, tea, soap, cloth, etc., and lends him money too. He realises the sum lent at the harvest time either in cash or in kind. The annual income of the traders surveyed ranged between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 6,000 or even more depending on their business. Most of them were able to save regularly. They invested their savings in business.

The school teachers and other salaried persons in the district lived a simple life. On account of fixed incomes, they are forced to adjust their expenditure to their limited income. However, they had to incur debt to meet unforeseen expenditure at the time of marriage or sickness Their average annual income was estimated at Rs. 2,500. About 60 per cent of their incomes was spent on food, 15 per cent on clothing, 10 per cent on housing, 3 per cent on education and the remainder on miscellaneous items of expenditure.

The village artisans include the carpenter, the blacksmith, the cobbler, the tailor, the barber, etc. They thus form an important section of the village community. Most of them have followed their hereditary profession. Usually, they receive payment for their services to the farmers in form of foodgrains at the time of harvest. The others pay cash. The average annual income of this class was estimated at Rs. 2,400. Their annual expenditure was a little more, leaving a small deficit every year. As regards the pattern of their expenditure, about 65 per cent of the total was spent on food, 8 per cent on clothing, 5 to 10 per cent on tea, *beedi*, etc., and the rest on miscellaneous items of expenditure. The percentage of literacy among the non-agriculturist was as high as 52.

Summing-up

The survey has revealed that in respect of average income per family, the urban sector of the district lags behind its rural sector both in the higher income group and the lower income group. In other words, among the rich in both the groups a family in rural area is comparatively better off, while among the poor, a family belonging to the urban area is worse off. This is perhaps due to the prosperity brought about by agricultural development in rural areas and the absence of large-scale industrial or commercial activities in the urban areas of the district.

In respect of indebtedness also, proportionately more families of the lower income groups in urban areas were reported in debt than those in rural areas. At the same time, larger number of families in higher income groups of urban areas owned radio transistors and other articles of luxury as compared to their counter parts in rural areas. This was, however, not true in respect of the lower income groups. Not a single family belonging to this group in urban areas owned a radio set. As against this about 15 per cent in this group of families in rural areas owned radio sets. Similar was the case in respect of owned houses. While in rural areas, all families under the higher income group owned their houses, only 70 per cent of those in urban areas had this advantage. The percentage of literacy was, obviously higher in urban areas in all income groups as compared to the rural areas. This was due to the greater and better facilities of education available in the urban areas.

As regards the pattern of expenditure, the urban households spent proportionately larger on education, entertainment, clothing, house rents, cosmetics, edible oil and fuel; while those in rural areas spent more on food, tea, tobacco, *beedi* and religious ceremonies.

In short, in the rural areas the pattern of living was simple, comfortable and progressive. This was brought about by the agricultural break-through achieved by package of inputs under the Five Year Plans. Social

customs and religious ceremonies, tea and tobacco take away a big slice of their income. Against this pattern of expenditure in the rural areas, we have a different picture of the pattern of living in the urban areas. There, more and more expenditure is incurred on education of children, entertainment, modern clothings, cosmetics and better household equipment.

General Level of Employment : Population shifts among different sectors

Utilization of human resources as determined by its working force in different economic activities and their distribution into different sectors of economy is helpful in assessing the progress made in the different sectors.

In 1961 Census has thrown up valuable data for ascertaining the working force during the inter-censal period 1951-61 as shown in the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·11

Variation in working Population by Industrial Sectors between 1951 and 1961

Sectors	District Working population 1951	District Working population 1961	Increase or decrease 1951-61	Percentage increase or decrease 1951-61	Gujarat State Percentage increase or decrease 1951-61
1	2	3	4	5	6
All Sectors	**304,988**	**418,562**	**+113,574**	**+37.24**	**+28.91**
Primary Sector	*244,829*	*343,277*	*+98,448*	*+40.21*	*+33.13*
As cultivator	200,202	310,353	110,151	+55.02	+53.09
As agriculture labourers ..	39,204	28,640	−10,564	—26.95	+2.17
In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities	5,423	4,284	−1,139	—21.00	—55.62
Secondary Sector	*19,907*	*30,294*	*+10,387*	*+52.18*	*+63.07*
At household industry and in manufacturing other than household industry ..	18,760	25,611	+6,851	+36.52	+61.87
In construction	1,147	4,683	+3,536	+308.28	+79.21
Tertiary Sector	*40,152*	*44,991*	*+4.739*	*+11.77*	*—1.30*
In trade and commerce ..	11,519	13,947	+2,428	+21.08	+0.40
In transport, storage and communications	1,727	2,344	+617	+35.73	+59.30
In other services .	27,006	28,700	+1,694	+6.27	—8.59

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part I-A (iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*, (1965), pp. 10-11.

The data revealed that agriculture employed 82·01 per cent of the working force in the district. The number of cultivators increased by 8·51 per cent between 1951 and 1961, but there was corresponding decline among the agricultural labourers by 6·01 per cent. A similar decline of 0·76 per cent was also noticed in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, etc., during this period.

In the secondary sector, which is confined largely to manufacturing and construction activities there was an increase of workers by 0·71 per cent during the decennium, 1951-61. The decline in the number of agricultural labour and in mining, quarrying, etc., and corresponding increase, though marginal, in the secondary sector helps to show that there was definite shift from agriculture to industry.

The total percentage of workers engaged in the tertiary sector declined from 13·20 to 10·75 per cent in the inter-censal period 1951-1961, and was confined to workers in trade and commerce, (0·45 per cent) and other services (2·0 per cent), because the district has a large tract inhabited by poor Adivasi population.

The total working force in the district increased by 37·24 per cent, as against the State average of 28·91 per cent during the decennium, 1951-61.

In the primary sector, the working population increased by 40·21 over 1951, as against 33·13 per cent for the State. In the secondary sector, there was an increase of 52·18 per cent, as against 63·07 for the State. A similar trend was noticed in the tertiary sector also, where the number of workers increased by 11·77 per cent as against the decline in the State average by 1·30 per cent. This shows that there was concentration of workers in agriculture on account of the occupancy rights granted by the Government under the various land reforms laws which made tillers owners of land.

In the secondary sector, the overall increase in the number of workers by 52·18 per cent shows the adequate development under the Five Year Plans in industries, and in building and construction activities.

In the tertiary sector, the increase in the number of workers is confined to such fields as trade and commerce, transport, storage and communications and other services which jointly claimed 63·08 per cent because of the availability of opportunities of employment in these occupations.

The overall increase in the employment in all the three sectors—primary, secondary and the tertiary—shows the extent to which people have taken up jobs in other sectors, though agriculture and allied activities continued to provide bulk employment.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

The Directorate of Employment, Ahmedabad runs its subordinate offices in the districts for assessing the man-power requirements of the public and private sectors. They also ascertain the type of personnel in short supply, the employment opportunities available and the working force required in professional, scientific and technical fields.

The Employment Exchange for the Sabarkantha district with head-quarters at Himatnagar was established on 22nd February, 1960. The concerns in the public as well as private sectors employing 25 or more persons are required to notify their vacancies to the employment exchange under the Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959. Information from establishments in the private sector employing less than 25 persons is collected on a voluntary basis

The working of the exchange is divided into the following three sections.

(1) The Exchange side gives employment assistance to the employment seekers, collects and disseminates regularly information about vacancies in different fields and submits periodical returns and reports to the concerned authorities such as Director of Employment, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad and the Director General of Employment and Training, Government of India, New Delhi.

(2) The employment market information unit attends to the scrutiny of the returns their tabulation, analysis and interpretation in respect of employment from the private and the public sector establishments.

(3) The employment information and assistance bureau which was established at Khedbrahma on 31st March, 1964 renders assistance to the rural folk in respect of vocational guidance, and maintains an up to date information cell, where career pamphlets, charts and other literature are exhibited. The Bureau carries out employment surveys and gives vocational guidance to the employment seekers from the rural areas of the district.

The Statement IX·12 gives the Employment Exchange statistics of the district for the period from 1960 to 1970 (upto September).

It will be seen from the figures that the number of applicants in search of jobs has progressively increased from 3,180 in 1960 to 7,029 in 1969 Those approaching the Exchange for employment assistance as also those on its live register also disclose a similar trend. The rise in registration was due to (i) advertisement issued by the District School Board, Himatnagar for recruitment of primary teachers, (ii) the rush of fresh applicants for

enrollment and (iii) expansion in Secondary education. The number of candidates placed in jobs also registered a significant rise; because the Police Department recruited constables and the Public Health Department recruited temporary staff for their malaria fighting programme. The enforcement of economy measures in the State's administration at all levels following external aggressions (1962 and 1965) resulted in the decrease in figures of those placed in service. However, the decline in registration noticed during 1964 was due to favourable monsoon, when work in fields attracted a large number of workers.

STATEMENT IX·12

Employment Exchange Statistics

Year	No. of registration	No. placed in employment	No. on live register at the end of each period	No. of vacancies notified	No. of employers using exchange
1	2	3	4	5	6
1960 ..	3,180	230	1,991	392	91
1961 ..	3,376	213	1,952	508	147
1962 ..	4,525	576	2,175	806	169
1963 ..	4 901	534	2,468	807	151
1964 ..	4,455	326	3,017	444	152
1965 ..	4,772	657	2,568	839	173
1966 ..	5,162	423	178	595	176
1967 ..	5,180	581	3,702	979	158
1968 ..	5,219	502	4,468	715	126
1969 ..	7 029	1,032	5,504	1,361	153
1st January 1970 to 30th September 1970	5 221	516	6,167	874	150

Source :
District Employment Officer Himatnagar.

NATIONAL PLANNING

The Planning Forum of the pre-Independence days created the necessary climate in the country for the planned development after the attainment of freedom. The Constitution of India has enunciated certain Directive Principles for the establishment of a Welfare State. A central body in the form of Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister was constituted in 1950. It included economists, senior administrators, educationists, scientists and other technocrats. The First Five Year Plan was then prepared and launched in 1951-52. It aimed at achieving a balanced growth within a stipulated period of time by raising the necessary resources for implementation, the underlying idea being to improve the standard of living of the people at large. For the socio-economic advancement of the people, targets in various sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry, irrigation, etc., were fixed and efforts were directed to achieve them within the specified period of five years. The Plan opened up new vistats of development and avenues of employment and helped ensure a richer and fuller life to the people. The First Five Year Plan was, aimed at preparing the ground for future bold and ambitious approach. It was followed by the Second, the Third and the Fourth Five Year Plans, though Annual Plans interspersed between the Third and the Fourth for administrative convenience and the assessment of the country's resources.

Under these Plans, the State and district Plans have been formulated keeping in view concept of the Welfare State and implemented through the district administrative machinery, which has been expanded and strengthened from time to time for undertaking the tasks of development. For each scheme of development, there is a fixed target and estimates of expenditure have been worked out to achieve the desired social and economic goals.

So far as the Sabarkantha district is concerned, in the absence of availability of complete data about the expenditure incurred during each Plan period on different heads of developments, it is difficult to discuss at length the progress achieved in various sectors.

The First Five Year Plan sought to prepare a base for accelerating the tempo of development in the subsequent Plans mainly in such sectors as agriculture, irrigation community development, industries, power, transport and communications, social services like education and health. The State Government took the bold and pioneering steps in the whole of the country for initiating measures of land reforms by granting, in the first instance, occupancy rights to a number of landless labourers, thus giving them an opportunity to become occupants of the land they tilled, a powerful incentive to them to produce more in their fields. The following statement shows the sectoral expenditure under the various heads from 1951 till 1968-69.

STATEMENT IX-13

Expenditure under the Plans, 1951-1969

(FIGURES IN LAKHS OF RS.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Head	First Plan (1951-56) expenditure	Second Plan (1956-61) expenditure	Third Plan (1961-66) expenditure	Annual Plans 1966-67 1967-68 1968-69	Total expenditure	Percentage of the total expenditure	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Agricultural production ..	18.47	9.96	7.57	12.89	48.89	2.23	
	(i) Animal Husbandary ..	..	..	3.03	3.10	6.13	0.28	
	(ii) Rehabilitation	..	..	..	0.14	0.14	..	
	(iii) Forest ..	..	..	3.26	4.44	7.70	0.35	
	(iv) Fisheries ..	..	..	..	2.06	2.06	0.09	
2	Irrigation .. }	1.37	331.72	501.99	63.34	898.42	40.87	
3	Power .. }							
4	Co-operation and Community Development }	3.14	89.29	..	45.76*	138.19	6.28	*includes expenditure of Third Plan period
5	Panchayat }	..	..	54.44	22.57	77.01	3.54	
6	Industries and Mining ..	0.12	2.98	..	1.83	4.93	0.22	
7	Transport and Communication	237.61	215.49	..	1.16	454.26	20.66	
8	Social Welfare and Social Services							
	(i) Education	169.67	143.04	10.65†	4.88†	228.94	10.41	†Expenditure towards technical education only.
	(ii) Health ..	5.63	17.26	..	..	22.89	1.04	
	(iii) Backward Classes ..	0.96	4.46	19.08	7.50	32.00	1.45	
	(iv) Housing ..	3.20	47.58	..	..	50.78	2.31	
	(v) Social Welfare ..	3.22	3.48	..	..	6.70	0.31	
9	Miscellaneous ..	37.47	181.60	..	..	219.07	9.96	
	Total ..	**480.86**	**1,047.46**	**600.02**	**169.97**	**2,198.01**	**100.00**	

Sources :

1. The Collector Sabarkantha, Himatnagar.
2. Eighteen Years of Planning, '*Pragatine Panthe*', Sabarkantha District.

During the Plan period which began from 1951, the total expenditure incurred on various schemes comes to the tune of Rs. 2,198·01 lakhs upto 1968-69. On the basis of the available data, their break-up is indicated below.

Plan			Expenditure
First Plan	...	...	Rs. 380·86 lakhs
Second Plan	...	...	Rs. 1,047·46 lakhs
Third Plan	...	...	Rs. 600·02 lakhs
Subsequent Annual Plans		...	Rs. 169·67 lakhs

Main emphasis was laid in the First Plan on the development of transport and communication services whereunder an amount of Rs. 237·61 lakhs was spent, looking to the fact that a major part of the district has no railway lines and, therefore, a network of roads had to be constructed for linking up of far-flung villages. Other heads of development, which accounted for reasonably large expenditure, were social services, (82·62 lakhs) and development of agriculture (18·47 lakhs).

In the Second Five Year Plan, the total expenditure incurred in the district increased by over 175·02 per cent over the First Plan. The striking feature of the Plan was that irrigation and power sectors were given priority over all other heads. An amount of Rs. 331·72 lakhs was spent on these sectors. Next came social services and transport and communications, which claimed Rs. 216·42 lakhs and Rs. 215·49 lakhs respectively. They were followed by community development and co-operation (89·29 lakhs) agricultural production (9 96 lakhs), and industries and mining (2·98 lakhs).

In the Thrid Plan and the subsequent Annual Plan periods, expenditure to the tune of Rs. 600·02 lakhs and Rs. 169·67 lakhs was incurred. A total sum of Rs. 565·33 lakhs was utilised for the development of irrigation potential and power supply during this period. Co-operation, community development and panchayats claimed a total sum of Rs. 122·77 lakhs. Social services, agricultural development, industries and mining, transport and communications services claimed Rs. 42·11 lakhs, Rs. 36·49 lakhs, Rs. 1·83 lakhs and Rs. 1·16 lakhs respectively.

The district has a tribal population of 13·94 per cent and backward class population of 8·54 per cent according to the Census of 1961. For bringing about a transition from the past feudal administration in the States and Estates merged in the district, to the Welfare State, some change was certainly needed. The best answer could be found in pumping up of large investments for development in order to brake the age old poverty and backwardness of a large section of society.

The achievements made as a result of implementation of the Plans show that a number of medium and minor irrigation schemes have been developed so as to bring large areas under cultivation and increase the land output. Schemes like the Harnav dam in the Khedbrahma taluka, the Karol dam in the Prantij taluka, the Meshvo dam near Shamalaji and the Hathmati dam on the Hathmati river in the Bhiloda taluka were taken up for execution during the plan period. A number of tube wells have been constructed and wells have been dug in the fields and pumps installed for increasing the areas under irrigation. Towards this end, 40·87 per cent of the expenditure has been incurred, till 1969-70. In order to increase agricultural production, in addition to bringing large areas under irrigation by increasing irrigation potential, the farmers were given improved seeds and implements and chemical fertilisers at concessional rates. The district now has a bumper crop of cotton, groundnut, maize and *bajri*. As regards industrial production, oil milling industry has developed to a large extent and has given scope for the establishment of the solvent extraction plants for extracting residual oil from the oil cake. Similarly extracting oil from cotton seeds is another prospective industry which could be developed to a large extent. Commercial exploitation of minerals will also give the district a sound industrial base.

Considering the inadequacy of rail routes in the district, a network of roads has been built to improve transport and communications facilities and bring about speedy development of the hilly and backward areas of the district. Thus development of roads accounted for 20·66 per cent of the total expenditure incurred, since the planning area commenced. Schemes of social welfare such as development of education and health services and welfare of backward classes, housing and family planning have been vigorously implemented. These accounted for 15·52 per cent of the total expenditure. To eradicate illiteracy among the masses, free and compulsory primary education was introduced in the schools run by local bodies and adult education classes were also introduced. School buildings and hostels were constructed. Backward class students were offered freeships and other incentives to help them prosecute their studies. Progress concerning improvement of the public health was sought to be achieved by introducing compulsory vaccination against small-pox, tuberculosis, etc., and steps to eradicate malaria were vigorously undertaken. The National Small-pox Eradication Programme and the National Malaria Eradication Programme were actively implemented. Improvement in general of the maternity and child health was brought about by establishing primary health centres and sub-centres at convenient places in the district.

The co-operation and community development programme involved an expenditure to the extent of 9·82 per cent. Agricultural programmes and soil conservation were undertaken to preserve the fertility of the soil by conserving moisture. Contour-bunding was undertaken in all talukas

of the district and 15,289 acres of land were brought under this scheme. The scheme of consolidation of holdings was also executed and completed in 104 villages at the end of 1968-69. Considering the immense importance of the forests in the country's economy, all possible efforts were made to increase the areas under forests and to raise quantum of forest produce. Of thirteen schemes of forests development such as plantation of teak trees, *khair* trees, bamboos and other plantations, demarcation, development of pastures and grazing lands, etc., Rs. 92 lakhs were spent till 1969-70.

The First Five Year Plan was more or less in the nature of preparing the groundwork for future bold and ambitious approach. The Second and the Third Plans were highly ambitious, both in their outlook and contents and aimed at large increase in production, investment and employment. Efforts were made to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains, meet the requirements of industries, exports, and increasing the tempo of development generated in the course of implementation of the various plan schemes during the last two decades of planning. Thus it could be said that planning has resulted in introducing structural changes in the socio-economic conditions of the people.

Community Development Programme

The Community Development Programme is conceived for mobilising public participation in the development work. This programme was first inaugurated in this district at Modasa on 2nd October, 1952 by opening the community development block, covering in the first instance 120 villages of the Malpur mahal and Modasa taluka. The block was then extended to 166 villages of Modasa taluka and 10 villages of Malpur mahal.

In the beginning, three types of development blocks such as the National Extension Service, Community Development and Post-Intensive Stage blocks were conceived. They marked three different phases of development of the rural areas. The National Extension Service was taken to be the preparatory period, when the area was prepared for receiving a heavy dose of development during the next stage of community development. It was envisaged that the development tempo generated would be maintained then and further progress ensured. However, the Community Development Programme could not evoke and enlist sufficient co-operation of the people in implementation of the development schemes. The Planning Commission, therefore, appointed in 1957 the Balwantray Mehta Committee to examine the working of the community development programme, related matters and to recommend measures for improving both quality and content of the whole programme. The Committee recommended organisational and structural changes. In pursuance of these recommendations, the distinction between the N. E. S. stage, intensive development stage, and the Post-intensive stage was abolished from 1st April, 1958 and all blocks

under all-India programme except those in the community development stage, which had then not completed three years of existence, were classified into stage I and stage II blocks, with revised financial pattern and periods of operation. The community development blocks on completing stage I period would enter stage II. A stage I block has five years of operation with the ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 12 lakhs. It is the intensive development phase in which the people's participation is to be promoted by a closer association of people's institutions, like the Gram Panchayats. The degree of success attained during the first stage would be evidenced by the growth and functioning of self-reliant rural communities which was the basic objective of the programme. After completing stage I, the blocks would enter stage II and then the post-stage II of the programme.

Each community block is intended to be an area of intensive effort in which all development agencies of the Government work together as a team in concert with the local leadership and talent, represented in the Panchayats.

The block programmes have an important bearing on the preparation of the State plans in the fields of agriculture, minor irrigation, co-operatives, communications, village industries, education, rural amenities and the utilisation of available man-power resources. The block plans include all social and economic activities undertaken for the benefit of the people.

On 1st October, 1970, there were 9 community development blocks, two Tribal Development blocks and one special multipurpose project in the district. Of these, two were stage I community development blocks at Idar and Prantij, three were stage II blocks at Malpur, Meghraj and Khedbrahma and four were post-stage II blocks at Bayad, Bhiloda, Modasa and Himatnagar. The two tribal development blocks were located at Vijaynagar and Meghraj-Bhiloda. The last Khedbrahma block was under stage III and was operated as a Special Multipurpose Project.

Detailed particulars of starting of each block, number of villages, etc., upto 30th September, 1970 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·14

Community Development Programme, Sabarkantha District upto 30th September, 1970

Sl. No.	Name of the block/ taluka	Date of the starting of the block	Number of villages covered as per 1961 Census	Total expenditure incurred upto 30th September, 1970	Total contribution by the people upto 30th September, 1970	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Rs.	Rs.	
		STAGE I—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS				
1	Idar ..	1st October, 1962	201	16,57,532.00	3,75,600.00	
2	Prantij ..	1st April, 1963	136	11,5 ,610.00	1,44,475.00	
	Total ..		*337*	*28,09,142.00*	*5,20,075.00*	
		STAGE II—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS				
3	Malpur ..	1st October, 1960	123	6,36,126.00	1,59,250.00	
4	Meghraj ..	1st October, 1961	157	5,94,335.00	23,058.00	
5	Khedbrahma	2nd October, 1960	56	6,61,124.00	36,996.00	
	Total ..		*336*	*18,91,585.00*	*2,19,304.00*	
		POST STAGE II—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS				
6	Bayad ..	2nd October, 1957	166	15,43,279.00	2,37,685.00	
7	Bhiloda ..	1st April, 1956	188	15,92,471.00	2,14,367.00	
8	Modasa ..	2nd October, 1952	155	13,59,900.00	6,33,541.00	

STATEMENT IX·14—*concld.*

Sl. No. 1	Name of the block/ taluka 2	Date of the starting of the block 3	Number of villages covered as per 1961 Census 4	Total expenditure incurred upto 30th September, 1970 5	Total contribution by the people upto 30th September, 1970 6	Remarks 7
				Rs.	Rs.	
9	Himatnagar	1st April, 1958	150	18,36,419.00	7,10,112.00	
	Total ..	..	*659*	*63,32,069.00*	*17,95,705.00*	
	STAGE I—TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS					
	..	..	..	..	..	
	STAGE II—TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS					
10	Vijaynagar	1st April, 1965	95	16,85,936.00	6,43,969.00	First this was C. D. Block but it is converted into T. D. Block from 1st April, 1965. Villages of both the Talukas benifit of C. D. Block also
11	Meghraj Bhiloda	1st April, 1963	153	10,66,904.00	34,245.00	
	Total .	..	*248*	*27,52,840.00*	*6,78,214.00*	
	STAGE III—SPECIAL MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT					
12	Khedbrahma	2nd November, 1956	97	38,25,801.00	6,43,969.00	
	Total	..	*97*	*38,25,801.00*	*6,43,969.00*	
	Grand Total	..	**1,677**	**1,76,11,487.00**	**38 57 267.00**	

Source

District Development Officer, Sabarkantha, Himatnagar.

It will be seen that, entire district has been covered by the community, tribal and special multipurpose development blocks, wherein activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, land reclamation, education, communication and improvement of health, rural sanitation, rural arts and crafts, small industries, co-operation, etc., have been undertaken. The total expenditure incurred upto 30th September, 1970 was to the extent of Rs. 1,76,11,437 and people's contribution amounted to Rs. 38,57,267.

The progress of the blocks suggest that they have been instrumental in improving the conditions of the rural life. The following statement gives an idea about the physical achievements made upto 30th September, 1970, in the block areas.

STATEMENT IX·15

Physical Achievements in Community Development Programme upto 30th September, 1970 (Since inauguration)

Sl. No. 1	Name of Item 2	Unit 3	Achievement 4	Remarks 5
1	**Agriculture**			
	(a) Distribution of improved seeds ..	Quintals	64,32?	
	(b) Distribution of fertilisers ..	„	60,733	
	(c) Distribution of oil cakes ..	„	7,362	
	(d) Distribution of improved implements	Number	41,426	
	(e) Prepared compost pits ..	„	14,444	
	(f) Plantation of fruit trees ..	„	18,471	
2	**Animal Husbandry**			
	(a) Animals castrated	Number	15,304	
	(b) Poultry farm started	„	3	
3	**Minor Irrigation**			
	(a) Old wells repaired or renovated ..	Number	5,747	
	(b) *Pacca* wells repaired or renovated ..	„	10,270	
	(c) Pump sets installed on tubewells ..	„	10	
	(d) Oil-engines installed	„	4,487	
	(e) Net additional area likely to be irrigated	Areas	2,093	
4	**Health and Rural Sanitation**			
	(a) Primary Health Centres started ..	Number	13	
	(b) Family Planning Centres started ..	„	41	
5	**Education**			
	(a) Primary schools started ..	Number	1,448	
	(b) Middle schools	„	130	
	(c) Basic training schools	„	157	at the end of 1965-66
	(d) Colleges started	„	5	
	(e) Technical school started ..	„	1	

STATEMENT IX·15—*concld.*

Sl. No. 1	Name of Item 2	Unit 3	Achievement 4	Remarks 5
6	**Communications**			
	Road Constructed	Miles	827	
7	**Co-operations**			
	(a) Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies started	Number	484	
	(b) Memberships	„	74,000	
8	**General**			
	(a) Village Panchayats established ..	Number	492	
	(b) Number of villages covered ..	„	All villages of the district	

From the above, it will be seen that the community development programme has succeded in all fields in the district. This may be due to the setting up of the Panchayati Raj from April, 1963. The three-tier system introduced at the district level is expected to achieve as integrated development of the different sectors of the economy. The officers and staff of the Panchayats being in close touch with the village people help awaken sufficient awareness and understanding among the rural folk. The community development blocks have been responsible for much of development in the rural areas.

TRENDS OF DEVELOPMENT

The economic progress of a region depends on a number of factors such as the availability of the requisite infrastructure comprising the natural resources like agriculture, minerals, forests, etc., and necessary facilities for their exploitation by setting up different types of industries. Availability of technical know-how, financial and political stability are other requisite essential factors for economic growth of a region.

The Pre-Independence Period—Before Independence, the Sabarkantha district, was not in existence. But the major portion of the Mahikantha Agency has been integrated into the present Sabarkantha district in 1948-49. The district is inhabited by a sizeable Adivasi and other backward class population, on the eastern and northern borders. Before 1947, serious efforts were not made for improvement of the economy of the areas, but rulers were content with the maintenance of law and order in their respective territories, Thus comprehensive schemes of development which might bring about an all-round economic change were not undertaken due to the paucity of resources and technical staff. The transport facilities were far from adequate. Facilities for medical treatment were also meagre. The agricultural

conditions were not conducive to the adoption of improved farming practices under the system of land tenure prevailing in the princely States. The farm produce was not optimum as easy credit facilities from co-operative societies were not available and the farmers had no knowledge about the benefits of improved farming practices and use of chemical fertilisers, which had produced good results elsewhere.

Post-Independence Period—After Independence, the Government undertook measures for the development of the country for redeeming the pledge given to the people while fighting for freedom from foreign yoke. The State was to become a Welfare State under the Constitution. The Planning era which commenced since the launching of the First Five Year Plan in 1951 aroused hopes and aspirations for socio-economic development. After the merger of the States/Estates into Bombay State in 1948 enactments, which were applicable to the other areas of the Bombay State were extended to this district also. Several land reforms laws were initiated and implemented with a view to bringing Sabarkantha district on a par with other parts of the State. Multiplicity of obnoxious cesses were abolished and a hold land policy was adopted to make the tenants occupants of the land they tilled. The farmers have realised the necessity and utility of improved farm practices which are being extensively adopted with the financial and other assistance made available by the Government as also by the agencies created by it in this behalf. These measures have had their inevitable impact on the general improvement of the economic condition of the agricultural classes in particular.

After the formation of the Gujarat State in 1960, comprehensive measures for economic development of the different parts of the State have been undertaken, keeping in view the backwardness of this district. From 1st April, 1963, the Panchayati Raj has been introduced in the State for ensuring active participation of the people in implementation of the development programmes. For raising the farm output, the irrigation facilities have been expanded in the district by constructing dams over the Meshvo and Hathmati rivers. Minor irrigation schemes were also taken up for execution. These involved construction of tanks, tube-wells, and digging up of wells, at a number of places. By December 1969, the total area brought under irrigation was 32,790 acres.

The Dharoi multipurpose project was cleared by the Planning Commission in July 1971. The foundation stone has been laid by the Prime Minister on 21st November, 1971. This scheme has been included in the Fourth Five Year Plan and is expected to be completed by 1976. Besides meeting the water requirements of Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad, the Dharoi Project will irrigate 74,000 acres of land in Mehsana district, 16,720 acres in the Sabarkantha district and 62,000 acres in the Ahmedabad district.

Measures to promote and develop the non-agricultural sectors were also taken *pari-passu*. The former obnoxius custom dues have been abolished and weights and measures simplified by the introduction of the "Metric System". Various infrastructure facilities and special concessions are provided by the Government for the establishment of new industries both in the public and private sectors. The industrial base is sought to be expanded by providing necessary finances through autonomous corporations like the Gujarat State Financial Corporation, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, Gujarat State Industrial Investment Corporation, Gujarat Small Industries Corporation, etc. The State Transport Workshops have been established at Himatnagar, Modasa and Idar. Moreover, electric grid-sub-stations have been established at Himatnagar and Talod for providing cheap electric power for agro-industrial expansion. 155 villages were electrified at the end of 1968-69. Under the Rural Electrification Programme, a further provision of 3.31 lakhs has been made, which is being executed at present. This will help setting up turbines as well as installation of motors on wells, tube-wells, etc., for expanding irrigation facilities.

Commercial and co-operative banks have been so expanded in the Post-Independence period that practically every taluka/mahal headquarters have banking facilities. In the wake of the nationalisation of the 14 major banks in the country in 1969, commercial banks are encouraged to open their branches in the rural areas so as to cater to the credit needs of agriculturist and small scale industries in their respective areas. One of the distinguishing features of the co-operative movement is that there is "The Sabarkantha Jilla Co-operative Cotton Producers' Society" which runs the Sabarkantha Jilla Co-operative Spinning Mills at Himatnagar. Postal and other communication facilities have been expanded. In the field of education, remarkable progress has been made. Primary schools have increased from 528 to 1,448 or by 165 per cent, and middle schools have risen from 11 only in 1951-52 to 130 in 1969-70. Five colleges have been established during the period between 1960 and 1969 for higher education. In the First Five Year Plan, one technical school with a strength of 50 students was established and in 1963 one industrial training centre was established. In the Third Five Year Plan period, one industrial estate at Himatnagar was set-up and two sheds costing Rs. 1.83 lakhs were constructed at the end of 1968-69. For imparting technical training to the workers engaged in different industries, technical schools have been established at the following centres.

Sl. No.	Name	Location
1	2	3
1	Training-*cum*-Production Centre	Khedbrahma
2	Cotton Weaving School	Chitroda (Idar taluka)
3	Leather Tanning School	Bhiloda
4	Tailoring School	Idar
5	District Cluster-type Training Centre ..	Himatnagar

Thus, all round progress in all fields indicate the bold approach of the Government to help improve the living conditions of the people by expanding agriculture, industries, transport and communications, social services, etc.

An idea about the socio-economic achievement made between 1950-57 and 1968-69 in the district can be had from the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·16

Achievements Made in Sabarkantha District

Sl. No.	Name of sector	Unit	Position in 1951-52	Position in 1968-69	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Agricultural school	Number	..	1	
2	Consolidation of holdings scheme completed in villages	"	4	104	
3(a)	Agricultural credit co-operative society..	"	65	484	
(b)	Agricultural credit co-operative membership	"	6,263	74,000	
4	Co-operative spinning mill ..	"	..	1	
5	Medium irrigation dam	"	..	4	
6	Irrigation wells	"	25,872	52,840	
7	Tube-wells	"	3	10	
8	Villages electrified	"	1	155	
9	Factories	"	37 (in 1956)	54	
10	Number of workers in factories ..	"	3,046 (in 1956)	5,104	
11	Industrial estates	"	..	1	with two sheds.
12	Roads	Miles	100	827	
13(a)	Primary schools	Number	528	1,448	
(b)	Students in schools	"	42,246	1,66,000	
14(a)	Secondary schools	"	11	130	
(b)	Students in secondary schools ..	"	1,041	19,700	
15(a)	Colleges	"	..	5	
(b)	Students in colleges	"	..	1,900	
16	Primary health centre with sub-centres	"	..	50	
17	Post offices	"	72	373 (in 1971)	
18	Banks	"	4	17	Commercial, 37 District Central and other Urban banks.

The foregoing statement is self-explanatory as it points out the development in the district during the past 18 years. In order to promote further expansion of the existing industries and establishment of new ones an assessment of the future prospects was made by the Industries Officer, Himatnagar as shown below.

1. *Agro-based Industries*

Such as groundnut oil, cotton ginning and pressing, cotton seeds oil, solvant extraction, manufacture of soap or fatty acids, roller and flour mills, etc.

2. *Forest-based Industries*

Such as saw mills, manufacture of catechu, distillation of oil, manufacture of eucalyptus oil, wood seasoning and manufacture of sports goods, *bidi* leaves, grading of gum, etc.

3 *Mineral-based Industries*

Like ceramics, fire bricks, refractories, stone quarries, pulverising industry, silica industry, sanitary articles, insecticides, glass industry, and bone crushing industry, tanning, dairy, cattle feed, poultry and wool industry.

4. *Others*

Such as the agricultural implements, cement pipe indusrry, power-loom industry, manufacture of plastic articles, establishment of automobiles workshop, manufacture of leather goods, electrical goods, mixed fertilisers and paints and varnishes. (The details for industrial potential and plan for further development of industries have been given in Chapter V--Industries in this Gazetteer).

These factors go to show that the district has considerable potential for socio-economic advancement. New avenues of augmenting production and services and tapping up of the latent resources have been opened in the district.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT IX-6

Prices Prevailing in Modasa Taluka

(SEER OF 40 TOLAS PER RUPEE)

Sl. No.	Commodities	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
1	*Juwar*	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	18-0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	*Bajri*	2-0	15-0	11-2	11-2	20-0	20-0	22-0	17-1	18-0	20-0	35-0	36-0	38-0	38-0	34-0	40-0	33-8	40-0
3	Rice	10-0	10-0	10-0	10-0	10-0	10-0	10-0	13-0	14-0	14-01	16-0	16-0	16-0	16-0	16-0	16-0	20-0	16-0
4	Wheat	10-0	10-0	9-2	9-3	19-0	18-0	16-0	13-2	13-0	14 0	20-0	25-0	26-0	26-0	23-0	26-0	24-0	32-0
5	*Makai*	12-0	14-0	14-0	15-0	36 0	23-0	24-0	23-0	20-0	25-0	30-0	40-0	40-0	40-0	40-0	44-0	42-8	47-4
6	*Tur dal*	8-0	10-0	7-0	7-0	10-0	10-0	10-0	8-0	8-0	8-0	10-0	13-0	13-0	13-0	16-0	20-0	16-0	16-0
7	Gram	22-0	22-0	12-0	12-0	21-0	23-0	23-0	20-0	20-0	23-0	30-0	32-0	33-0	32-0	32-0	36-0	35-8	36-0
8	*Til*	10-0	10-0	9-2	9-2	9-0	8-0	10-0	..	10-0	10-0	11-0	11-0	16-0	16-0	16-0	20-0	11-0	16-0

Source :
District Development Officer, Sabarkantha District, Himatnagar.

(Bk) H-57—57 (Lino)

STATEMENT IX-8

Prices of Foodgrains, Himatnagar Taluka for 1948-1960

(RS. FOR 20 KG.)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Year												
		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
1	Wheat (Red) ..	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	8.25	8.50	9.00	7.00	11.00	8.40
2	*Bajri*	8.00	6.00	6.50	6.50	7.00	7.50	7.00	7.50	7.75	8.00	8.25	7.75	7.75
3	*Makai*	6.50	6.75	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.75	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	6.50
4	*Juwar*	8.00	7.00	6.50	6.50	7.00	7.50	7.25	7.50	7.25	8.00	7.00	7.50	7.00
5	Rice (medium) ..	8.00	11.00	18.00	18.00	14.50	14.00	14.50	15.25	15.00	14.50	14.50	14.50	18.00
6	*Tur*	8.00	6.00	7.00	6.50	8.00	9.00	9.50	9.00	10.00	13.00	12.00	13.00	8.00
7	*Mag*	10.00	7.00	7.50	7.00	8.00	8.50	8.75	8.75	10.00	12.00	12.00	12.50	8.50
8	Blackgram ..	8.00	7.00	7.50	7.25	8.25	8.00	8.75	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.25	12.00	8.00
9	Groundnut ..	8.50	10.00	12.50	9.00	13.00	12.00	13.50	15.00	16.75	16.00	18.80	20.00	22.06

Source :
District Development Officer, Sabarkantha, Himatnagar.

STATEMENT IX-8—*contd.*

Prices of Foodgrains Prevailing in Khedbrahma Taluka for 1948 to 1960

(RS. FOR KACHHA MD. OF 40 SEERS)

Sl. No.	Commodity	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
1	Wheat ..	8.00	8.00	9.00	9.50	10.00	11.50	11.25	10.00	10.00	9.00	6.50	10.00	10.00
2	*Makai* ..	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	7.00	6.00	5.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.00
3	*Bajri* ..	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.25	7.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	7.50	8.00
4	*Juwar* ..	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.50	5.50	7.00	6.25	6.25	6.00	6.00	7.50	8.00
5	Rice ..	10.00	10.25	11.50	12.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	13.00	13.00	12.50	14.00	13.00	12.00
6	*Math* ..	3.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.50	6.50	7.00	7.00
7	Blackgram ..	9.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	11.00	12.00	12.00	11.00	9.50	8.50	9.00	8.00	10.00
8	Gram ..	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.75	3.75	4.00	4.50	4.50	5.50	5.50	6.50	6.50
9	Cotton ..	12.00	12.00	15.00	15.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	23.00	22.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
10	Groundnut ..	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.50	6.75	6.75	6.50	6.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	12.00
11	*Mag* ..	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	15.00	15.00	13.00	13.00	10.00	9.00	11.00	11.00
12	*Tur* ..	12.00	12.00	12.00	[illegible]	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	13.00	13.00	12.00	12.00

Source

District Development Officer, Sabarkantha, Himatnagar.

STATEMENT IX-8—*contd.*

Prices of Foodgrains, Modasa Taluka for 1945 to 1960

(RS. FOR TWO KACHHA MD.)

Sl. No.	Commodity	1945 to 1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
1	*Juwar* ..	Rationing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	*Bajri* ..	,,	6.00	6.00	7.00	12.50	16.00	14.90	14.00	15.91	..
3	Rice ..	,,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Wheat ..	,,	10.00	10.00	12.00	15.00	17.50	18.03	20.90	21.31	19.67
5	*Makai* ..	,,	5.00	5.00	6.00	12.50	15.00	14.03	13.50	13.98	13.62
6	*Tur dal* ..	,,	7.00	7.25	8.00	15.00	13.50	14.56	19.25	19.65	16.80
7	Gram ..	,,	8.25	9.50	10.00	12.00	12.00	11.94	17.50	14.56	15.52
8	*Math* ..	,,	8.00	8.50	9.50	10.00	16.25	12.75	15.25	14.57	10.64
9	*Til* ..	,,	16.00	16.00	17.00	31.00	32.50	30.73	28.25	31.91	45.25

Source :
District Development Officer, Sabarkantha, Himatnagar.

STATEMENT IX-8—*contd.*

Prices of Foodgrains, Vijaynagar Mahal for 1957 to 1960

(RS. FOR 20 KG.)

Sl. No.	Commodity			1957	1958	1959	1960
1	Rice	..	..	20.00	8.00	8.00	24.00
2	Wheat	..	..	18.00	8.00	8.00	16.00
3	*Juwar*	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	*Bajri*	..	..	13.00	..	..	..
5	*Mag* ..	..	..	15.00	10.00	10.00	..
6	*Kodra*	..	..	8.00	4.00	4.00	..
7	*Makai*	..	..	3.00	7.00	7.00	13.00
8	Gram	..	..	10.00	5.00	5.00	14.50
9	*Tur dal*	..	..	25.00	25.00	25.00	..
10	Blackgram	..	..	15.00	..	..	..

Source :
District Development Officer, Sabarkantha, Himatnagar.

STATEMENT IX·8—*concld.*

Prices of Foodgrains, Prantij Taluka, 1953-54 to 1960-61

(RS. FOR ONE BANGALI MD.)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Year							
		1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
1	*Juwar*	..	..	6.2.0 6.8.0	3.7.0 4.2.0	9.0.0 9.4.0	9 6.0 10.4.0	18.8.0 19.0.0	13.8.0 14.0.0
2	*Bajri*	..	..	6.4.0 0.10.0	3.6.0 3.15.0	8.6.0 9.0.0	9.0.0 9.0.0	16.8.0 18.0.0	16.8.0 17.0.0
3	Wheat	..	..	7.6.0 8.0.0	3.14.0 4.6.0	9.6.0 10.0.0	11.4.0 12.4.0	21.0.0 22.0.0	19.4.0 20.0.0
4	Rice	..	..	4.6.0 5.8.0	6.2.0 6.8.0	10.10.0 12.0.0	10.8.0 11.0.0	19.6.0 20.0.0	16.8.0 20.0.0
5	Gram	..	..	6.6.0 6.12.0	6.0.0 6.8.0	7.0.0 7.4.0	6.8.0 7.0.0	15.8.0 16.0.0	16.8.0 18.4.0
6	*Math*	..	..	..	5.2.0 6.0 0	..	..	..	..

Source : District Development Officer, Sabarkantha, Himatnagar.

STATEMENT IX-9

Average wholesale Prices of Foodgrains Prevailing at Himatnagar and Khedbrahma Talukas from 1961 to 1970

(RS. FOR BANGALI MD.)

Sl. No.	Commodities	1961		1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967	
		Himat-nagar	Khed-brahma	Himat-nagar	Khed-brahma	Himat-nagar	Khed-brahma	Himat-nagar	Khed-brahma	Himat-nagar	Khed-brahma	Himat-nagar	Khed-brahma	Himat-nagar	Khed-brahma
1	Rice ..	34-07	36-48	86-70	89-50	84-17	85-97	93-07	104-56	..	96-45	190-00	197-58	..	140-94
2	Wheat (White)	19-91	21-70	51-94	52-06	49-91	53-54	65-43	60-76	84-83	69-96	72-50	67-84	70-00	82-72
3	Wheat (Red) ..	16-52	19-55	45-99	46-25	42-20	44-05	67-68	73-93	6[illegible]-62	64-58	77-50	81-37	106-25	109-10
4	*Juwar* ..	14-64	16-51	42-90	45-03	35-08	41-14	48-06	59-32	60-70	45-00	67-50	65-58	62-30	84-60
5	*Bajri* ..	16-02	17-59	35-73	38-86	38-71	42-58	49-90	53-94	59-69	59-64	70-00	57-35	71-25	83-74
6	Gram *dal* ..	14-57	18-84	54-84	61-40	56-45	59-16	76-23	76-20	127-13	124-17	130-00	137-49	195-0[illegible]	215-43
7	*Mag* ..	21-06	22-17	54-29	55-32	53-08	54-71	117-0[illegible]	121-25	113-75	116-25	94-25	93-45	118-07	119-58
8	Blackgram *dal*	18-83	21-36	55-32	53-00	57-11	58-73	118-7[illegible]	122-05	121-25	123-75	92-13	91-76	113-3[illegible]	116-[illegible]7
9	Groundnut oil ..	20-64	22-86	202-52	195-44	188-19	192-83	213-01	216-74	273-36	267-90	343-75	330-27	272-90	445-60

STATEMENT IX-9—*concld.*

(RS. FOR BANGALI MD.)

Sl. No.	Commodities	1968 Himatnagar	1968 Khedbrahma	1969 Himatnagar	1969 Khedbrahma	1970 Himatnagar	1970 Khedbrahma
1	Rice ..	200-00	197.00	195-00	205-00	185-00	200-00
2	Wheat (White)	109-00	111-00	105-00	112-00	90-00	87-00
3	Wheat (Red)	104-12	92-50	95-00	97-00	120-00	95-00
4	*Juwar* ..	75-00	82-50	77-50	80-00	70-00	..
5	*Bajri* ..	71-00	83-00	71-50	74-00	75-00	..
6	Gram *dal* ..	175-00	195-00	122-00	105-00	150-00	105-00
7	*Mug* ..	130-00	135-00	135-00	137-00	132-00	135-00
8	Blackgram *dal*	105-00	110-00	100-00	105-00	110 00	112-00
9	Groundnut oil	375-00	380-30	467-25	471-27	465-25	476-31

STATEMENT IX.10

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Modasa

(RS. FOR BANGALI MD.)

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2		August 1964 3	March 1965 4	July 1966 5	November 1967 6	March 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour						
	(a) Carpenter	..	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00
	(b) Blacksmith	..	..	5.00	5.00	7.00	7.00
	(c) Cobbler	..	..	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00
2	Field Labour						
	(a) Man ..	..	3.00	2.50	2.00	4.00	4.00
	(b) Woman ..	..	..	1.50	1.50	4.00	4.00
	(c) Child ..	..	..	1.00	1.00	3.00	3.00
3	Ordinary Labour						
	(a) Man ..	..	..	2.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
	(b) Woman ..	..	..	1.50	1.50	4.00	4.00
	(c) Child ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Herdsmen						
	(a) Man ..	..	..	.	..	..	..
	(b) Woman ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

STATEMENT IX·10—*contd.*

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Idar

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2		April 1964 3	March 1965 4	March 1966 5	November 1967 6	March 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour						
	(a) Carpenter	..	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.50	5.50
	(b) Blacksmith	..	..	..	..	5.00	5.00
	(c) Cobbler ..	..	..	..	..	4.00	4.00
2	Field Labour						
	(a) Man ..	..	3.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	3.00
	(b) Woman ..	..	2.00	2.00	1.50	2.50	2.50
	(c) Child ..	..	1.00	..	0.75	2.00	2.00
3	Ordinary Labour						
	(a) Man ..	..	3.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	3.00
	(b) Woman ..	..	2.00	2.00	1.50	2.50	2.50
	(c) Child ..	..	..	..	..	2.00	2.00
4	Herdsmen						
	(a) Man ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Woman ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child ..	..	.	..	..	..	..

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Vijaynagar

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2		September 1964 3	March 1965 4	March 1966 5	February 1967 6	March 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour						
	(a) Carpenter	..	..	4.00	5.00	5.50	5.50
	(b) Blacksmith	..	..	3.00	6.00	4.00	4.00
	(c) Cobbler ..	.	..	..	..	..	4.00
2	Field Labour						
	(a) Man ..	..	2.50	2.00	1.50	2.00	2.00
	(b) Woman ..	..	1.50	1.50	1.25	1.50	1.50
	(c) Child ..	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.50
3	Ordinary Labour						
	(a) Man ..	..	1.50	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00
	(b) Woman ..	..	1.25	1.25	1.50	1.50	1.50
	(c) Child ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Herdsmen						
	(a) Man ..	..	..	..	.	..	..
	(b) Woman ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

STATEMENT IX·10—*contd.*

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Prantij

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2	September 1964 3	March 1965 4	July 1966 5	November 1967 6	March 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour					
	(a) Carpenter ..	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
	(b) Blacksmith ..	6.00	6.00	6.50	6.50	6.50
	(c) Cobbler	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.50	5.00
2	Field Labour					
	(a) Man	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
	(b) Woman	2.00	2.00	2.00	2 00	2.00
	(c) Child	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
3	Ordinary Labour					
	(a) Man	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
	(b) Woman	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	(c) Child	..	.	.	..	..
4	Herdsmen					
	(a) Man	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Woman	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child	..	..	..	..	..

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Bhiloda

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2	April 1964 3	August 1965 4	August 1966 5	November 1967 6	March 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour					
	(a) Carpenter ..	4.50	6.00	6 00	6.00	6.00
	(b) Blacksmith ..	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
	(c) Cobbler	4.00	4 50	5.00	5.00	5.00
2	Fild Labour					
	(a) Man .. .	2.00	2.00	2.50	2.00	2.5
	(b) Woman	1.50	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00
	(c) Child	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Ordinary Labour					
	(a) Man	2.00	2.00	2.50	..	..
	(b) Woman	1.50	1.50	2.00	..	..
	(c) Child	.	..	1.00	..	..
4	Herdsmen					
	(a) Man	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Woman	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child	..	..	..	..	..

STATEMENT IX·10—*contd.*

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Malpur

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2		April 1964 3	March 1965 4	March 1966 5	November 1967 6	August 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour						
	(a) Carpenter	..	5.25	6.50	5.00	5.00	5.00
	(b) Blacksmith	..	3.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
	(c) Cobbler		3.25	3.00	4.00	5.50	5.50
2	Field Labour						
	(a) Man	..	1.25	2.00	2.00	1 50	1.50
	(b) Woman	.	1.00	1.50	2.00	1.00	1.00
	(c) Child	..	0.87	1.00	1.50	1.00	1.00
3	Ordinary Labour						
	(a) Man	..	1.50	2.00	2.00	1.75	1.75
	(b) Woman	..	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.25	1.25
	(c) Child	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Herdsmen						
	(a) Man	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Woman	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child	..	..	..	..	..	..

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Bayad

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2		September 1964 3	March 1965 4	March 1966 5	November 1967 6	August 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour						
	(a) Carpenter	..	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
	(b) Blacksmith	..	5.00	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
	(c) Cobbler	..	4.00	5.50	5.50	5 50	6.00
2	Field Labour						
	(a) Man	..	1.50	1.75	1.50	2.00	2.00
	(b) Woman	..	1.25	1.50	1 25	1.50	1.50
	(c) Child	..	1.00	1.25	1.00	1 25	1.25
3	Ordinary Labour						
	(a) Man	..	1.50	1.75	1.50	2.00	2.00
	(b) Woman	..	1.25	1.50	1.25	1.50	1.50
	(c) Child	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Herdsmen						
	(a) Man	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Woman	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child	..	..	..	..	..	..

STATEMENT IX·10—*contd.*

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Khedbrahma

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2		April 1964 3	March 1965 4	March 1966 5	November 1967 6	March 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour						
	(a) Carpenter	..	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
	(b) Blacksmith	..	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
	(c) Cobbler	..	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
2	Field Labour						
	(a) Man	..	2.50	2.50	2.00	2.00	2.00
	(b) Woman	..	2.00	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.50
	(c) Child	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Ordinary Labour						
	(a) Man	..	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	(b) Woman	..	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
	(c) Child	..	..	..	..	1.00	1.00
4	Herdsmen						
	(a) Man	..	..	..	..	2.00	..
	(b) Woman	..	..	..	..	1.50	..
	(c) Child	..	..	..	..	1.00	.

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Meghraj

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2		April 1964 3	March 1965 4	July 1966 5	November 1967 6	August 1968 7
1	Skilled Labour						
	(a) Carpenter	..	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
	(b) Blacksmith	..	3.00	..	..	6.00	6.00
	(c) Cobbler ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Field Labour						
	(a) Man ..	..	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	(b) Woman ..	..	1.25	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
	(c) Child ..	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.00
3	Ordinary Labour						
	(a) Man ..	..	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	(b) Woman ..	..	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
	(c) Child ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Herdsmen						
	(a) Man ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Woman ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

STATEMENT IX·10—*concld.*

Average Daily Wages of Workers at Himatnagar

Sl. No. 1	Type of Labour 2	June 1957 3	April 1958 4	February 1962 5	May 1963 6	March 1965 7	March 1966 8	November 1967 9	March 1968 10
		Rs. a. p.			Rs. np.				
1	Skilled Labour								
	(a) Carpenter ..	4.0.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00
	(b) Blacksmith ..	4.0.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	4.00	5.00	5.00
	(c) Cobbler ..	4.0.00	4.00	4.00	*	2.00	5.00	4.00	5.00
2	Field Labour								
	(a) Man ..	1.0.00	1.50	2.50	2.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.50
	(b) Woman ..	1.0.00	1 00	2.00	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.00
	(c) Child ..	0.12.00	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Ordinary Labour								
	(a) Man ..	1.8.00	1.50	2.00	2.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.75
	(b) Woman ..	1.8.00	1.00	1.50	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.25
	(c) Child ..	0.12.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	..
4	Herdsmen								
	(a) Man .	1 0.00	1.50	+2.00	+2.00	..	..	..	..
	(b) Woman ..	1.0.00	1.00	+1.50	+1.50	..	..	..	..
	(c) Child ..	1.0.00	1.00	*	+1.00	..	..	..	..

* Not stated

\+ Per cattle per month

PART V—PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTORY

Public administration, as understood today, was not evolved before Independence when the functions of Government were mostly limited to the management of land and preservation of law and order. Land Revenue and Police were the only important departments in most of the Princely States of the Mahikantha Agency under the conditions obtaining there prior to Independence. The machinery of administration, however, differed in different States and estates according to their size, powers of the rulers, financial resources of the State and the type or character of administration. Since the form of Government was essentially monarchical, the ruler was the repository of all powers, civil and criminal.

The Sabarkantha district came into existence in August, 1949, by integration of 28 States and estates and the Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal of the former Ahmedabad district. The Princely States and estates were of different ranks and gradation such as State, Taluka and Thana, etc., exercising powers and jurisdiction which varied very widely. The following statement gives details of classifications of the then existing States and estates of Sabarkantha district.

STATEMENT X·1

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Class
1	2	3
1	Idar	I
2	Vijaynagar	II
3	Mohanpur	III
4	Ilol*	III
5	Malpur	III
6	Ambaliara*	IV
7	Ranasan	IV

STATEMENT X-1—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Class
1	2	3
8	Dabha	V
9	Rupal	
10	Dadhalia	
11	Vadagam	
12	Magodi	
13	Sudasana	
14	Sathamba	
15	Valasana	
16	Kadoli	VI
17	Hapa	
18	Prempur	
19	Derol	
20	Ranos	
21	Khedawada	
22	Satlasana	
23	Dadhrota	
24	Tajpuri	
25	Likhi	
26	Vaktapur	
27	Bolundra*	VII
28	Gabat	

* For details see Appendix I at the end of the Chapter.

Among the various units included in this district, Idar was the first class State with a fairly good system of administration. The administration of the State was carried on by the Diwan or Karbhari under the ruler's direction who was the supreme and final authority in the State. The various departmental heads were responsible to the Diwan for their work. All important matters especially those connected with Revenue, Finance and Political matters were referred for orders to the ruler.

Another units, Vijaynagar, being a second class State could not have such an elaborate system of administration because of its small size and limited financial resources. The ruler had full powers to try civil and criminal cases within his territory. He was assisted by the Chief Karbhari and a Personal Adviser.

The departments of the State varied in extent and number according to the size, material resources, and the character of the administration of the State and included departments such as Revenue, Police, Judiciary, Education, Agriculture and Public Works, etc.

During the British rule, the Political Agent played very effective and decisive role in administration of native States and estates of this district. It is, therefore, essential to take note of his powers and functions.

At the head of the Agency was the Political Agent, who had three Assistants. The talukas upto the third class were under his direct supervision. The other talukas and the five *thanas* or groups of petty estates were divided between his Assistants. The Assistant Political Agent had also the charge of the Agency Police. The Personal Assistant had the charge of all estates and talukas attached by the British Government during the minority of the holders or by reason of mismanagement. The Native Assistant was in charge of the Sadra Civil Station, the Treasury and the Jail. Civil and Criminal Justice was administared by the Chiefs according to the class to which they belonged. Idar was a first class State and had full powers of jurisdiction, both civil and criminal. In the case of capital offences committed by British subjects, these powers could be exercised with the consent of the Political Agent. The Chiefs of the Vijaynagar State exercised jurisdiction in civil cases upto Rs. 20,000 and full jurisdiction in criminal cases, subject to confirmation by the Political Agent in capital cases, and with the same limitation as Idar State in regard to British subjects. Chiefs of Mohanpur, Malpur and Ilol States had jurisdiction in civil cases upto Rs. 5,000 and in criminal cases upto penalty of two years' imprisonment and Rs. 1,000 fine, with a limitation in regard to British subjects; and so on for the remaining four classes of the States with gradually decreasing powers. The Political Agent was vested with the powers both of a Sessions Judge and of a District Magistrate. As far as practicable, the Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes and the Indian Penal Code were in force.[1]

The States in the Bombay Presidency which for the time being remained in political relations with the Government of Bombay, were transferred to the control of the Government of India with effect from the 1st April, 1933. The Sabarkantha Agency, with Headquarters at Sadra Civil Station, was constituted by the amalgamation of the Mahi Kantha and Banas Kantha Agencies. Prior to 1933, the administration of these two Agencies was on the usual lines with a Political Agent in charge of each, while after that date, the organisation was assimilated to that of the other two agencies. The Agency contained 44 jurisdictional non-salute States and eight Thana Circles. Among Chiefs in direct relations with the Political Agent, the States of Malpur and Mohanpur were prominent. The States of Idar and Vijaynagar were included in the Rajputana Agency.[2]

With effect from the 5th November, 1944, the Western India States Agency and the Baroda and Gujarat States Agencies were amalgamated and the Resident for the combined Agency was designated "Resident at Baroda and for the States of Western India and Gujarat."[3]

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1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XVII, (1908), pp. 19-20.
2. *The Indian Year Book and Who's Who*, 1942-43, Vol. XXIX, pp. 196-197.
3. *Ibid.*, 1945-46, Vol. XXXII, p. 210.

In 1949, when the States were merged and new district was constituted, the former Bombay Government faced a difficult task of placing the administrative machinery of the State on a uniform basis.

After Independence, the administrative structure was radically changed to meet and fulfil aims and objectives of the free democratic Government. The administrative structure was changed both in content, size and spirit. Instead of emphasizing on the functions of revenue collection and law and order, the State became a Welfare State. In October 1952, the administration was made development—oriented by introduction of the Community Development Programme. In order to secure greater participation of the people in implementation of the development programmes, the Panchayati Raj with three tiers was introduced with effect from 1st April, 1963, under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, (1961).

The evolution of the administrative machinery in the present form may be considered into three distinct phases. During the first phase, the entire structure of administration was reorganised on the basis of a district, which became a principal unit of administration with intermediate functionaries at taluka and village levels. During the second phase, attempts were made to give a new form to the public administration in order to implement the ideals of a Welfare State by making the administrative machinery development--oriented and by increasing association of the people in development activities. During the final phase, the administrative set-up was democratised to suit the changing needs of the time in tune with the socialistic pattern of society. These phases are dealt with below.

With the district as the principal unit of administration, the Collector became the key functionary and the pivot of administration. instead of the principal district officer responsible for the collection of land revenue and maintenance of law and order. He had manifold functions to perform. In the administration of land revenue, he was concerned not only with the maintenance of land records, collection of land revenue and administering the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, but also with the implementation of land reforms which were introduced immediately after integration to do away with numerous special land tenures, levies and perquisites which hampered agricultural production. As the judiciary was separated from the executive, his judicial powers were mainly magisterial and restricted to the maintenance of law and order in the district. On the development side, he co-ordinated the activities of various other departments such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation and Social Welfare, etc., which were now created at the district and lower levels.

The second phase began with the increasing association of the public with the welfare activities undertaken by the State under the Community Development Programme. The Collector was also the Chairman of the

District Development Board, which looked after development work in rural areas, particularly in the field of agriculture, irrigation, community development, co-operation, social education and panchayats, etc. A further step in the direction of popular association and local self-Government was taken by the establishment of panchayats in villages or groups of villages with a view to associating the people in the village administration. They were thus enabled to take active interest in works of public welfare and utility, and accelerate the pace of development activities for the amelioration of the conditions of the village people. Panchayats were also invested with powers to try petty criminal offences and certain civil disputes.

THE PANCHAYATI RAJ

The third phase in the evolution of the administrative structure was reached when the Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961 was enforced with effect from 1st April, 1963, with a view to democratising the entire administrative machinery from the village to the district level. The main objective of the Panchayati Raj is to enable the people of each area to achieve intensive and continuous development for the entire population. It offers new avenues of service to the people rather than opportunities for exercise of authority. It comprehends both the democratic institutions and the extension services through which the development programmes are executed. For this purpose, the integrity of the structure of technical and administrative services need to be fully ensured. This revolutionary change in the administrative set-up led to the bifurcation of functions and responsibilities of the Collector, who now retains certain powers in respect of land revenue administration, maintenance of law and order, elections, civil supply and other subjects not transferred to the Panchayati Raj bodies. All the development activities, which were formerly within his charge as well as some of the functions under the Land Revenue Code, have, as will be seen later in the chapter on "Local Self-Government", been transferred to the Panchayati Raj bodies constituted under the Gujarat Panchayats Act. Under this set-up, there are 3 tiers, namely, the District Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and Gram or Nagar Panchayat. The principal executive officer of the District Panchayat is the District Development Officer, mainly drawn from the Indian Administrative Service. The Taluka Development Officer is likewise the principal officer at the level of the Taluka Panchayat and the Secretary, Gram Panchayat, at the village level.

ROLE OF THE COLLECTOR

The Collector used to be the pivot of the district administration. He is recognised as the agent of Government in the district for all purposes whether he is specially empowered or not. Because of the overriding importance of his big role as well as his proximity to the people, he was considered the *ma-bap* of the people, as the ultimate point of reference and

redressal of grievances. Besides supervising the collection of land revenue, the duties of collection of excise and other special taxes and the stamp revenue also devolved upon him (the Collector) as the executive head of the district. Before the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 came into force in April 1963, he co-ordinated the work of different departments and ensured implementation of the development schemes in the district. Being the principal revenue authority as the District Head, all revenue functions were exercised by the Collector prior to the commencement of this Act. But on the introduction of the Panchavati Raj, the collection of land revenue has been entrusted to the village Panchayats. However, the Collector remains responsible for implementation of the land reform laws and the collection of fees, dues, etc., recoverable under various Acts such as the Bombay Irrigation Act (1879), the Bombay Entertainment Duty Act (1923), the Bombay Electricity Duty Act (1958), and the Gujarat Education Cess Act (1962). There are also other Acts, which provide for recoveries of other Government dues as arrears of land revneue. Under the Bombay Prohibition Act (1949), the Collector is empowered to issue permits to liquor and drug addicts and recover assessment fees from shops permitted to sell liquor and drugs. He is also the Chairman of the Prohibition Committee of the district. Over and above these major functions, the Collector is entrusted with the work of watching the proper implementation of the district level plan schemes retained with the State after implementation of the Panchayati Raj.

Apart from the above civil functions, the Collector has to perform duties as the District Magistrate under Section 17 (1) of the Bombay Police Act (XXII of 1951). The District Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the control of the District Magistrate. The District Superintendent of Police, who is the executive head of the police, exercises general powers subject to the orders of the District Magistrate. Besides being in control of the Police, the Collector as District Magistrate has extensive powers under the Criminal Procedure Code and for proper administration of jails and sub-jails. In his capacity as District Magistrate, he is concerned with the issue of licences and permits under the Indian Arms Act (1959), the Petroleum Act (1934), the Explosives Act (1884), and the Poisons Act (1919). Under the Factories Act, 1948, the District Magistrate is an Inspector for his district, in which capacity he has powers of inspection and supervision of factories, magazines, etc.

Prior to 1962, the District Treasury was under the overall charge of the Collector to whom the District Treasury Officer was subordinate He was responsible for all the cash, stamps, etc., received in the Treasury as also for the proper maintenance of accounts. The Sub-treasury establishments at the taluka and mahal headquarters formed part of the revenue establishments in the district. However, from 1st April, 1962, the Sub-treasury establishment was separated from the Revenue administration and placed

under the administrative control of the Director of Accounts and Treasuries working under the Finance Department. The Collector, however, continues to exercise general powers and functions as the head of the district administration. The Treasury is, thus, under the direct control of the Finance Department, though the Collector exercises supervision over it as required under the Bombay Treasury Rules.

Among the quasi-judicial functions of the Collector, over and above the hearing of appeals from the Prant Officers under the Land Revenue Code and various other revenue laws, the following may be mentioned: (1) revisional powers under section 23 of the Mamlatdars' Courts Act, which are delegated to an Assistant or Deputy Collector, (2) functions which the Collectors perform in connection with the execution of Civil Court decrees; (3) proceedings and awards under section 11 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894; (4) cases under the Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) Act and (5) powers exercised as District Magistrate under the Preventive Detention Act, when it was in force.

Besides land revenue, land reforms and magisterial work, the Collector is in charge of various important duties connected with civil supplies, small savings, land acquisition, elections to the State Legislature and Parliament and members of the District Panchayat and Census, etc. As a District Registrar, he controls work of registration of documents within the district, supervises the work of Sub-Registrars at the taluka and mahal levels and ensures proper performance of their duties as per the Indian Registration Act. Under the Famine Relief Code, 1951, the Collector is required to keep himself at all times informed about the agricultural conditions within the district, to organize relief measures. With a view to accelerating the tempo of development of industries in the district and to achieve more effective co-ordination in providing infrastructure facilities to industries, Government has designated Collector as Ex-Officio Deputy Commissioner of Industries and delegated to him certain functions and powers for allotment of factory sheds and open plots in the Government industrial estates, formulation of the District Master Plans and co-ordination of activities of various heads of offices and departments. Even after the introduction of the Panchayati Raj the Collector has to carry out *Jamabandhi* audits of Taluka Panchayats and villages.

Collector's Office—There are four branches in the Collector's Office, *viz.*, (i) Revenue, (ii) Head Clerk, (iii) Civil Supply and (iv) Magisterial Branch.

For the purpose of administration, the district is divided into two sub-divisions, *viz.*, (a) the Himatnagar division comprising Himatnagar, Idar, Khedbrahma and Bhiloda talukas and Vijaynagar mahal and (b) the Modasa division comprising Modasa, Prantij, Bayad and Meghraj talukas and Malpur mahal. Each of these sub-divisions is in charge of an Assistant

or Deputy Collector. The talukas are placed under the Mamlatdars and mahals under the Mahalkaris who work under the supervision of the Assistant Collector of the respective sub-division.

The Assistant Collector is also the sub-divisional Magistrate for his sub-division. He is conducting certain proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code and the Bombay Police Act. The Mamlatdar/Mahalkari is the head of the revenue administration at the taluka/mahal level. By virtue of his office, he is a Taluka Magistrate and also a superintendent of the taluka sub-jail and the Assistant Custodian of the Evacuee Property under the Bombay Evacuee (Administration of) Property Act, 1949.

Judiciary—Another important department at the district level is the Judicial Department headed by the Joint Judge who exercises all the powers of the District and Sessions Judge except the administrative powers. As there is no sufficient work, no separate District and Sessions Judge is appointed for the district. The Judicial set-up of the district at present consists of one Joint Judge and four Civil Judges. (For details, see Chapter XII - Law, Order and Justice).

THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

In the Panchayati Raj, a District Development Officer is appointed from the cadre of the Indian Administrative Service. The executive power of the District Panchayat for carrying out the provisions of the Act vests in him. Subject to the orders of the President of the District Panchayat, he exercises all the powers as the Chief Executive Officer in regard to the administration and execution of development programmes, the details of which will be found in Chapter XIII - Local Self-Government.

DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS

The general pattern of administration has been completely transformed after Independence. A number of new departments, which did not exist in the past, have been brought into being to fulfil the objectives of a Welfare State. Besides, Revenue, Judiciary and Police, which were the principal departments in the past, the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation, Rural Development, Panchayats, Public Works, Social Welfare and Education, are now functioning with enlarged powers and resources under the District Panchayat, having their functionaries at various levels of administration.

The following is the list of officers functioning at the district level.

1. Collector,
2. Joint Judge,
3. Civil Surgeon,
4. Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Public Works Department,

5. Executive Engineer, Canal Division,
6. Executive Engineer, Electricity Board, Talod,
7. Executive Engineer, North Gujarat, Irrigation Project Circle,
8. District Education Officer,
9. District Treasury Officer,
10. District Superintendent of Police,
11. District Registrar, Co-operative Societies,
12. District Employment Officer,
13. District Inspector, Prohibition and Excise,
14. Assistant Examiner, Local Funds Accounts,
15. District Administrative Officer, Home Guards,
16. Divisional Forest Officer,
17. District Information Officer,
18. Sales Tax Officer,
19. District Inspector of Land Records,
20. Superintendent of District Jail,
21. Medical Officer, Malaria Unit,
22. Resettlement Officer, Dharoi Project,
23. Special Land Acquisition Officer, Dharoi Project,
24. Special Land Acquisition Officer, Himatnagar,
25. Special Land Acquisition Officer, Idar,
26. Mines Supervisor,
27. Industries Officer, and
28. Soil Conservation Officer.

OFFICERS UNDER DISTRICT PANCHAYAT

After the commencement of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 in the district and with the transfer of many departmental schemes, a number of district level functionaries have been transferred to the District Panchayat. These officers are under the administrative control of their own heads of departments at the State level. The following is the list of officers under the District Panchayat.

1. District Development Officer,
2. District Agriculture Officer,
3. Administrative Officer, District Education Committee,
4. District Health Officer,
5. District Animal Husbandry Officer,
6. District Social Welfare Officer,
7. District Statistical Officer,
8. Executive Engineer, Panchayats,
9. Deputy Collector, Revenue,
10. Deputy Collector, Panchayats and
11. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies.

Central Government Offices

In addition to State Offices, there are several offices of Central Government located in the district. These are listed below :

1. Superintendent, Central excise,
2. Superintendent of Post and Telegraph, and
3. Sub-Divisional Officer, Telephones.

APPENDIX I

Jurisdiction and Powers of the States*

Class of the State	Name of the State	Powers of the State
1	2	3
Class III	Malpur, Mohanpur, Ilol.	The third class talukas of Malpur and Mohanpur exercised limited criminal powers and could inflict sentences restricted to two years. In the civil matters they had powers upto Rs. 5,000. *Malpur*—Of late the powers of the Chief had been raised in criminal matters upto 7 years and civil matters upto Rs. 20,000. Appellate powers of Political Agent in civil matters in all cases and in criminal matters so far only as summary trials under Criminal Procedure Code were concerned and revisional powers of the Commissioner, Northern Division in criminal matters in the above mentioned cases had been withdrawn as a personal distinction. *Ilol*—Ilol is ranked as fourth class State but during the rule of Wakhatsinghji the status was raised to third class till 1898. Again the status was raised to class three 1916 onward.
Class IV	Ambaliara, Ranasan ..	In case of Ambaliara the Chief had no salute but was entitled to be received collectively with the other fourth class Chiefs by the Governor of Bombay. The Chief could inflict, sentences to one years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 500 fine. In civil matters they could hear suits upto Rs. 2,500
Class V	Dabha, Rupal, Vadagam, Magodi, Sudasana, Dadhalia, Sathamba, Valasana.	The fifth class could hear civil suits upto Rs. 1,000 and could inflict sentence upto 6 months rigorous imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 250. The Sudasana had been raised to fourth class and Chief was given personal powers to inflict Appellate powers also have been withdrawn as regards all offences under Section 260, Criminal Procedure Code and decrees in civil suits to the extent of the Chief's powers The Government had sanctioned the withdrawal of the Appellate powers of the Political Agent and Revisional powers of the Commissioner, Northern Division in respect of certain offences. In all Civil cases decided by Thakore as a mark of personal distinction. The status of his taluka was raised to fourth class by Government in 1919 as a personal distinction. In a case of Vadagam the Chief was invested with the powers of a Third Class Magistrate and to hear Civil suits upto the value of Rs. 250. In case of Dadhalia the Chief and the family held no Sanad of adoption and in matters of succession it followed the rule of primogeniture.

* MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *The Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. I, 1922, pp. 162 to 205.

APPENDIX I—*concld.*

Class of the State	Name of the State	Powers of the State
1	2	3
		In case of Sathamba the family held no sanad of adoption; in matters of succession it followed the rule of primogeniture. Same was the case with Valasana Chiefs.
Class VI	Kadoli, Hapa, Prempur, Derol, Ramos, Khedawada, Satlasana, Dedhrota, Tajpuri, Likhi, Vaktapur.	The Talukdars had only powers to pass sentences restricted to three months' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 100 fine and to hear civil suits upto Rs. 500. In case of Satlasana the Chief was granted the powers of a Third Class Magistrate and to hear civil suits upto the value of Rs. 50 as a personal distinction subject to the *proviso* that he should exercise no jurisdiction over the Thana.
		All of these States held no Sanad of adoption, and in matters of succession they followed the rule of primogeniture.
Class VII	Bolundra, Gabat, ..	The Thakore could pass sentences upto one month and Rs. 50 fine and to hear civil suits upto Rs. 250. The family held no Sanad of adoption and in matters of succession it followed the rule of primogeniture.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

THE REVENUE ADMINISTRATION DURING EARLY DAYS

From time immemorial, land revenue has been the sheet-anchor of Government. Even after diversification of taxes, land revenue provides a large amount of the revenue to the States. Upon the incidence of the land revenue or rentals depends the prosperity or otherwise of cultivators. Welfare and prosperity of the agricultural classes are, therefore, intimately connected with the settlement of land revenue.

The revenue history of the district falls into two categories according to the political and administrative history of the areas. As stated before, the district politically and administratively fell into two broad categories, *viz.*, (1) the princely States and Estates and (2) the British areas of old Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal. The revenue history, therefore, is dealt with below in these separate sections.

THE PRINCELY STATES AND ESTATES[1]

Among these States and Estates, the State of Idar was the largest one. It may be pointed out that the system of revenue administration and recovery was not uniform in all the States and Estates. In some States, it was levied in kind and cash, while in others it was levied in cash alone. Except the managed Estates, the Chiefs themselves managed the revenue affairs of their States. Some idea of the revenue system prevalent in the old days is available from the old Gazetteer. According to the Gazetteer, in some of the more outlying parts especially in the north and east of Idar were large areas of arable waste. In the Idar State, the waste was offered to cultivators on favourable terms but the settlers were scared by the wildness of the country and of its Bhil inhabitants. Formerly, the land revenue was farmed. However, afterwards it came to be collected directly from the cultivators. The Bhil villages with no fixed village sites and widely scattered houses had no village temple or shop and except a headman, *gameti*, no village officers were there. In other villages the headman, *viz.*, Mukhi, Signers, Matadars and Accountant-Talati collected the revenue from the cultivators and paid to the proprietary talukdars. Later on as per the advice of the Political Agent, a Police Patel had been

1. (i) CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 366.
   (ii) *The Reports of the Alienation Enquiry Officer*, (Dr. G. D. Patel) *on Princely States and Estates*, 1951.

added to the establishment of most of the villages. The village staff was in some parts of Idar paid in cash, but they generally held rent-free lands or enjoyed certain fees and perquisites. There were two chief rent systems in existence in the tract, *viz.*, the acre rate (*bighoti*) and crop-share, *bhagbatai*.

Below is reviewed revenue systems of some of the important States and Estates, which constitute the district.

THE REVENUE SYSTEM IN THE IDAR STATE[1]

Some details about the revenue system of Idar State are available from the *Annual Administration Reports of Bombay Presidency, Mahikantha and the Annual Administration Reports of the Idar State.* The larger portion of the State revenue came from land. But the methods of collection varied. In most of the *khalsa* villages, the Khatabandhi or Ryotwari system of collecting the revenue in cash was in force. The assessment which had been regularly fixed was recovered in two instalments as in British districts. In a limited number of villages, the Halwari system was in force, by which the revenue was recovered on a fixed date or dates for the land actually cultivated at a certain rate per plough. Again in few villages on the Meghraj-Meywar Frontier where the population was mostly Bhils, a lumpsum was recovered from the headman of the village every year. In very few villages, the *bhagbatai* system obtained but even here when possible, the Darbar share was commuted into cash. The amount of the cash assessment varied from six *annas* to a rupee and a half per acre for *jirayat* land and from three to eight rupees per acre for garden land. In the alienated villages the revenue system was still the old time-honoured *bhagbatai*.

The Mahi Kantha Directory published in 1922 gives some idea of revenue administration of Idar State. In 1922, the *bighoti* system was mostly in existence in the *khalsa* villages of the Idar State. In some villages, *kutcha bighoti* was levied and in some, it was determined by the measurement of the actual areas under cultivation and application of fixed rates on the acreage. Some lands were leased out for fixed cash amounts or Ankadas. The total number of villages in the Idar State was 915 of which 318 were *khalsa*, 550 alienated, 45 co-shared villages and 2 disputed villages. The *bighoti* system which was mostly in vogue in the *khalsa* villages prevailed in 161 villages. The *kutcha bighoti* had been introduced in 29 villages and *bhagbatai* was in existence in 75 villages. The

1. (a) *Annual Administration Report of Mahi Kantha Agency*, 1894-95.
(b) MASTER F. S., *The Mahikantha Directory*, Vol. I, Rajkot, (1922), pp. 122-123.
(c) *The Annual Administration Report of the Idar State for the year*, 1933-34, p. 14
(d) *The Report of the Alienation Enquiry Officer*, (Dr. G. D. Patel), *on Idar State* (1950).

revenue demands in 12 villages were determined by measurement of the actual area under cultivation and application of fixed rates on the acreage. The remaining 41 villages had been leased out for fixed amounts or Ankadas. Among the alienated villages, the *bighoti* system prevailed only in 40 villages, while in the remaining 510 villages, the revenue was realised by the alienees in kind. Out of the 45 co-shared villages, 14 were governed by the *bighoti* system, 9 by the *kutcha bighoti*, 18 by the *bhagbatai* and. 4 by the Ankada system.[1]

Reference about the land revenue system are also found in the *Annual Administration Report of 1933-34 of the Idar State.* Cash assessment system was in force in most of the villages of the State. There were 279 *khalsa* and 30 co-shared villages in which assessment system was in force. In 1933-34, assessment rates were introduced in 10 *khalsa* villages and 1 co-shared village in which the *bhagbatai* system prevailed. Still there were 94 *khalsa* villages left and co-shared 14 villages with the *bhagbatai* system. Lastly there were 43 villages under the Ankada system.

It would thus be seen that the cash assessment system was gradually introduced and was in force in most of the villages of the State.

Alienations : Land grants

The land grants in the State followed the familiar pattern of *jiwarak jat inams, devasthan, seshan* or *dharmada inams* and village service grants One fundamental fact about the State alienations was that about ⅔rd of the villages had been granted as alienated villages to Bhumias. Sardars and Sesandars. Besides the entire villages, there were scattered lands granted to them as personal inams. There were very few *devsthan* grants as the entire *devsthan* villages were resumed by the State in the first decade of this century. The village service grants could be counted on finger's ends. In short, the extensive personal inams consisting of entire lands and villages to Bhumias, Sardar Patawats and Bhayats predominated in the pattern of the State alienations. They created a vexed problem of jagirs. This fact showed that the State mainly maintained its family members and other jagirdars like Bhumias and Sardar Patawats. Instead of creating stability in the State administration, these grantees proved a thorn for many centuries till merger in 1949.

Ankadia villages

As stated before, there were Ankadia villages besides villages on the *bighoti* and *bhagbatai* systems. For the purpose of revenue management, the Idar State gave to the local leaders on lease certain villages in the

1. *The Annual Administration Report of the Idar State for the year*, 1933-34, p. 14.

hilly and far-flung border areas of Bhiloda and Meghraj talukas. The leasees were called the Ankadedars who were responsible for leasing out lands for cultivation in the villages and for payment of a fixed sum called Ankada to the Idar Darbar. The Ankada system developed because of the difficulty and distance of the villages to be administered by the Idar State.

There were 40 Ankadia villages situated in the district, *viz.*, Meghraj (33), Bayad (3), Modasa (1), Bhiloda (1), and Malpur (2). The villages were hilly and generally inaccessible. They were populated by the Adivasis. As a result, the leading Adivasis were made the Ankadedars for these villages. The main purpose of the leases (Makta) was to populate the hilly region, to do *choki* on the border land of the State and collect and credit revenue to the State in the form of a fixed amount called "Ankada." The leases of the villages were not available but from the leases of Pisal and Kamroda, it appeared that the Ankadedars had to help the State by sword also.

Thus, the main purpose of the lease seems to be defence against the maraudars from beyond the border. Generally, the Mukhi Matadars (Police and Revenue Patels) were made the Ankadedars.

Before 1900 A. D., some Ankadas were periodical for a period of 10 years and some were permanent. During 1900-1910 Sir Pratap proposed to abolish the Ankadas in some villages; but had to give up the attempt owing to strong opposition from the Ankadedars. However, the Ankadas were continued during the pleasure of the Darbar.

In the Bhiloda taluka, Asal and Bedasan were the two Ankada villages. The first was on permanent lease and the second was leased for 10 years from 1942-43 to 1951-52.

The leases were pretty old All the 40 villages were unsurveyed and unsettled. The Ankadedars collected the amount of Ankada from the cultivators of the village, who generally belonged to the same stock of the Ankadedar's family and paid it to the Darbar. The Ankada was a fixed amount but varied with the increase of the village revenue. The Ankadedar's remuneration consisted of the exemption they got from the share of the *jala* of Ankada. Besides, they enjoyed *Gharkhed* lands of about 25 to 40 bighas each. The Ankadedars were the Mukhi Matadars (Police and Revenue Patels) who got no remuneration from the Government (formerly from the State) for the *patelki* duties. But they were given *Gharkhed* lands which constituted their remuneration.

These Ankadia villages were regulated by the conditions of the leases and not by any law. They should, therefore, be distinguished from the Ankadia villages of the ex-Baroda State, which were governed by the Ankadia Rules.

*Jagirs*1

Like other inams, there were jagirs covering several categories in the merged territories and areas of the district. The Jagirs may broadly be divided into two categories, *viz.*, (1) those granted for maintenance to the members of the royal family and (2) those granted in appreciation of valour in war or services to the State. They were given different names according to the circumstances of their origin. In these two broad categories, there were sub-categories. In the Sabarkantha district, the Jagirs were found mainly in the State of Idar. However, before dealing with these jagirs, it would be better to discuss the main categories of the jagirs.

(1) In some of the States certain grants were made for the maintenance of the members of the royal family. They were called *bhayati. jiwarak,* Jagir, *Ayadu* or *jiwai*. It was the practice in the States that on the death of the Ruler, his eldest son became the Ruler and his younger brothers, who were called Maharaj Kumars were granted jagirs for maintenance of their status and position. Other relatives of the royal family were also granted *jiwarak* grants which were originally life-grants but became hereditary in practice. This category was very common.

(2) There were certain jagirs mainly granted to the Sardars for the military service. They were supported by the *pattas* or sanads issued by the State. Because such jagirs were supported by *pattas*, they were called *patavati* jagirs The military service was the essential content of the grants. Such jagirs were found in the States of Idar, Malpur, etc. They paid *tanko* or tribute to the State concerned.

(3) There were certain jagirs which antedated the advent of the ruling dynasty. The jagirdars were already on the *bhumi* (Soil) and were not grantees of the Ruler concerned. They were, therefore, called *Bhumia* jagirs. Loyalty more than military service was the ingredient of the jagirs.

(4) There was one class of jagirs called Bhagena, Bhagilu or *Sharakati* meaning, co-shared with the State. The revenue of such villages were co-shared between the State and Jagirdars in varying proportions. Generally, the revenues were equally co-shared. Originally, several such villages were ' *swang* " or exclusively owned by the jagirdars, but owing to mal-administration and disputes amongst the co-sharers, the State assumed management and forced them to pay a certain share (namely half) from the village revenue. In this way, the *swang* villages became *bhagena*.

1. (a) PATEL G. D. (DR.), *The Indian Land Problem and Legislation*, (1954), p. 183
(b) *The Report of the Alienation Enquiry Officer*, (Dr. G. D. Patel), *on the Idar State*, (1951).

(5) The merger of the States and Estates created unwittingly one more category of jagirs. At the time of merger in 1948, certain holders of the States and Estates in the district executed the Zamindari agreement. Under the agreement, the Estate holders were entitled to collect rent in cash or kind from the cultivators of those villages and had to pay only the total annual contribution, which they used to pay to the Government of India before the merger till the survey and settlement were introduced in those States. This created an administrative anomaly in that Government could take over the entire administration of the big States like Baroda, Palanpur, Chhota Udepur, Rajpipla, etc., which were covered by the privy purse agreements but it could not have entire grip over the villages of smaller States such as Dabha, Bolundra, Dadhalia, Derol, Gabat, Kadoli, Khedwada, etc., of the district. There were 11 such Estates in the district.

Jagirs (fiefs) in the Idar State[1]

In the Idar State, out of the total area of 1,669 sq. miles, ⅔rd area was under the Jagirdars. Looking to the area and population, the progress and prosperity of the State depended on the progress of Jagirdars and their people. The Jagirdars in the State may broadly be classified into Bhumias and Sardar Patawats. The former were grantees of the former dynasty, whereas the latter were grantees of the ruling dynasty. In short, the Bhumias antedated the advent of the Marwari rajas from Jodhpur. As they were already on the soil, the name Bhumias might have been given to them. The latter were called Sardar Patawats because they were originally granted *pattas* (fiefs) by the Marwari rulers for the feudal military service to their friends and supporters. But with the passage of time, there was not much difference between the Bhumias and Sardar Patawats. The majority of the Jagirdars were illiterate with the result that they had always opposed any reform in the Jagirs either by the Idar Darbar or by the Mahi Kantha Agency. The adrinistration Report of 1930-31[2] correctly describes the position of the Jagirdars which prevailed in the State as under.

> "Their only object is to exact as much as possible from their people in their jagirs and to spend everything on their personal luxuries. The ryots of the *khalsa* villages enjoyed certain privileges which are not enjoyed by the Jagiri people and so, numerous complaints about exaction came before the State. At present, the people of the khalsa villages have to bear the cost of education, medical, police, magistracy, roads and communications, etc., for the entire State including more than one-half of the population of the Jagiri area for which the Jagirdars contribute nothing."[2]

1. *The Report of the Alienation Enquiry Officer*, (Dr. G. D. Patel), *on the Idar State*, (1951).
2. *The Annual Administration Report of the Idar State*, (1930-31), p. 85.

It would be thus observed that Report throws considerable light on the Jagirs and Jagirdars. In order to get a proper perspective of the problem, it is necessary to describe the kinds of Jagirs which existed in the State.

Bhumia Jagirdars

Before the advent of the Rathod dynasty, Rao Sonagji of the Rathod clan came from Sometra and conquered Idar from the Bhil Raja, Samalia Sodh. These Sardars who rendered service were given Jagirs on service tenure. The successors of Rao Sonagji also granted Jagirs (also called *pattas*) for feudal service. So, the Sardars of the old Raos came to be known as Bhumia Sardars. They were of different clans as detailed below :

1 *Rathod Clan*

Pal
Verabar
Pahala Taka Tuka
Budheli
Gambhoi ($\frac{1}{2}$ Government and $\frac{1}{2}$ Jagirdar)
Khodam
Vasan
Vagdi
Damvas ($\frac{1}{4}$ Government and $\frac{3}{4}$ Jagirdar)
Limbhoi
Kabsu
Hathrol and
Sahebpur

2 *Waghela Clan*

Poshina
Derol
Kheroj
Gadha
Dobhada
Paroya ($\frac{1}{2}$ Government and $\frac{1}{2}$ Jagirdar)
Agra ($\frac{1}{2}$ Government and $\frac{1}{2}$ Jagirdar)
Rudermala ($\frac{1}{6}$ Government and 5/6 Jagirdar)
Vatrol ($\frac{1}{2}$ Government and $\frac{1}{2}$ Jagirdar)
Vikhran ($\frac{1}{2}$ Government and $\frac{1}{2}$ Jagirdar)
Nakoj

3 *Rehwar Clan*

Ghorwara
Mordungra ($\frac{1}{2}$ Government and $\frac{1}{2}$ Jagirdar)

Sundarpur (½ Government and ½ Jagirdar)
Vantda (½ Bhumia and ½ Sardar)

4 *Solanki Clan*

Kuski
Rudardi (½ Bhumia and ½ Bhayat)
Bhetali

5 *Bihola Clan*

Jalia
Devni Mori
Deghamda
Samera
Karchha
Venpur and
Vanjar

6 *Vansha*

Shrawna (½ Government and ½ Jagirdar)

7 *Rana*

Rodhra

8 *Bhati*

Lonkh

9 *Chawan*

Bolundra (Ruvech)

10 *Sisodia*

Moti Mora

11 *Pagi*

Chhabhau

12 *Gadhia*

Musar (3/5 Government and 2/5 Jagirdar)

In the Idar State, some villages were surveyed and settled. Where the villages were settled, the Jagirdars recovered assessment from cultivators; but where the villages were unsurveyed and unsettled, "Vaje" (crop-share equal to $\frac{1}{4}$th, $\frac{1}{6}$th etc.) was recovered. It needs to be stressed that the cultivators in the Idar State were all occupants, who could sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise alienate their lands. In the Poshina belt, and Kheroj, the *halbandhi* system obtained. A plough tax from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 was charged, irrespective of the area of land cultivated.

The Bhumia Jagirdars paid Thana Varad as 10 per cent of the revenue of the jagir. This was in the nature of an administrative levy from the Bhumias who contributed nothing to Government before. Apart from the Thana Varad one pertinent fact which needs to be mentioned is that Jagirdars had *gharkhed* lands whether small or large. In addition, they had Khata lands. Thus, they had sufficient lands for cultivation and maintenance.

The Sardar Patawats

When Maharaja Anandsinhji and Raisinhji, brothers of the Maharaja of Jodhpur left their place to carve out a career for themselves, they were accompanied by some of their Marwari adherents. When Idar was conquered and their dynasty was firmly seated in the saddle, Maharaja Shivsinhji, the son of the conqueror and the founder of the dynasty rewarded the followers by *pattas* or jagirs in consideration of their loyalty. The *pattas* were granted for feudal military service. Originally, there were 8 main Patawats who accompanied the first Marwari ruler, *viz.*, (1) Chandarani, (2) Mudeti, (3) Medhasan, (4) Mau, (5) Kukadia, (6) Undani, (7) Tintoi, and (8) Vankaner. All these Marwari Sardars belonged to different clans, as detailed below :

1 *Champavat*

Chandarani
Tintoi
Vankaner
Virpur ($\frac{1}{2}$ Government and $\frac{1}{2}$ Jagirdar)
Bhotali
Chiboda, and
Vasan

2 *Kumpavat*

Kukadia
Undani
Netramali
Sika
Vadiavir, and
Manlor

3 *Jodha*

Medhasan
Sinawad, and
Vantda-Karnapur

4 *Jetawat*

Ganthiol (For doing Tilak to the Raja on accession to Gadi)
Medh
Ankala
Jinjwa, and
Silwad

5 *Udavat*

Bhanpur
Chudla

6 *Chowhan*

Mudeti
Gota
Hatharwa
Malasa, and
Bolundra

7 *Bhati*

Bhutia
Munai
Torda, and
Muloj

8 *Sisodia*

Punasan
Uni (Re. 0-5-6 Jagir, Re. 0-10-6 Government)
Bhutawad (Re. 0-8-0 Government : Re. 0-8-0 Jagirdar)
Torda

9 *Ramalavat*

Kotda
Masal

10 *Songara*

Bolundra

11 *Hada*

Valla Vanta

12 *Solanki*

Vasna

13 *Sobhavat*

Mankdi

About the Patawats, the agreement executed in 1822 A. D. between Maharaja Gambhirsinhji and his Patawats through the mediation of Major Ballantyne is the oldest document available. Accordingly, the Patawats were grantees of the Idar State holding their estates on condition of service. They were neither Talukdars nor Thakors, had no inherent jurisdiction and were liable to *Rekh-chakri*. The Patawats could be "kept and turned away at will" and had to serve with such a number of infantry and cavalry as ordered by Idar Darbar. They could enjoy the *patta* at the will of the Darbar. The *pattas* were given for a limited period only and were not to be enjoyed for all generations in perpetuity. But they were generally renewed on expiry of the period provided the grantees were loyal. In the Memoirs of the Mahi Kantha prepared in May 1845 A. D., by Captain J. R. Keily, Assistant to the Political Agent, the same position was re-affirmed as under :

> " The Sardar Patawats and Patawats of the Edar State.......... have been rewarded, for the assistance they rendered, with certain grants of lands termed Patas, in lieu of pay, which are all held on tenure of military service, each Chief being bound to keep up a fixed number of horse to attend on the Darbar when necessary ".

In short, the Pattas (fiefs) were continued contingent on performance of the feudal service. But with the passage of time and the settled conditions in the country-side, these Jagirs became non-functional and ornamental. The *pattas*, which were periodical originally, became permanent by the non-chalance or sufferance of the Rulers.

Most of the villages of the Sardar Patawats had been surveyed and settled. The Patawats paid nothing to Government except *Rekh-chakri* at Rs. 288 per Rs. 1,000 of revenue. This levy has a history of its own.

The Sardars were liable to feudal military-service by supply of 3 horses This service was commuted into cash and it was ordered that all such Sardars should pay *Rekh-chakri* (token payment in commutation of feudal service) at Rs. 288 per Rs. 1,000 of revenue. The figure of Rs. 288 is arrived at as under Rs. 8 per horse per month × 3 horse" 12 months = 288. (*vide* H. O. No. 313, dated 26th April, 1918).

For the revenue upto Rs. 500 per annum, *Rekh-chakri* equal to Re. 1 was levied and for sums exceeding Rs. 500, it was levied at Rs. 288 per Rs. 1,000. This levy was in the nature of an administrative levy imposed on 56 patawats only and yielded to Government an annual revenue of Rs. 42,000.

The fundamental fact about the Idar State Jagirs was that the cultivators, whether in Bhumia, Sardar Patawats, Bhayats, etc., and whether they paid Vighoti (in surveyed and settled villages) and Vaje (in unsurveyed and unsettled villages) were occupants. The lands could be sold, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated by the cultivators without the permission of the State. Secondly, the grants were originally military in character but with the passage of time and with the peaceful settlement of the countryside, the Jagirs has ceased to be functional in character. The only difference between the Bhumias and the Patawats was that Bhumias paid Thana Varad at the rate of 10 per cent of the revenues of the Jagirs and the Sardar Patawats paid *Rekh-chakri* at the rate of Rs. 288 per Rs. 1,000 of the revenue.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION IN OTHER STATES

Malpur[1]

The *bhagbatai* was the land revenue system in the Malpur State. Under the system the usual *vero* and *sukhadi* were levied. Although the general system was the *bhagbatai* in some lands, a cash collection (Udhad-*bighoti*) was introduced. Only in the village Ubharan the Vighoti was prevalent. A Ghoda Vero was recovered as a binomial tax from the cultivator.

Mohanpur[2]

The land revenue system was the *bhagbatai* and *vero*. The form of *bhagbatai* was known as *chokha bhag*. By this system every hundred maunds of grain that ripened was taken as 66⅔ maunds, and of this latter amount, the Darbar took ½ in dry crop, 1/5 in the cold weather irrigation and ¼ in

1. MASTER F. S., *The Mahikantha Directory*, Vol. I, Rajkot, (1922), p. 162.

2. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha Agency for the year*, 1894-95.

the hot weather irrigation. All *lagats* and *kharajats* were included in this except a small allowance to beggars.

Ambaliara[1]

The revenue system was the *bhagbatai* with *vero* and *sukhadi*, except in the four villages into which a cash assessment had been introduced. The rates of this cash assessment were reported to be from 12 annas to Re. 1-15-0 per bigha on dry-crop land and from Rs. 1-12-0 to 4-8-0 per bigha on irrigated lands.

Vadagam[2]

The revenue system was the *bhagbatai* with *vero* and *sukhadi*. Thereafter *vighoti* system was introduced. The Darbar took at ¼th share of the produce in some villages and a 1/5th in others, but when chillies, castor oil, tobacco or cotton were grown, vighoti amounting to Rs. 2 and upwards per bigha was charged instead of a share in the crop.

Sathamba[3]

The revenue system was the *bhagbatai* with *vero* and *sukhadi*. The Darbar took 1/5th of the dry-crop and 1/7th of the irrigated crop. On sugar-cane a bighoti of Rs. 5-2-0 was levied and on tobacco and chillies a bighoti of Rs. 4 was levied.

Ranasan[4]

The *bhagbatai* was prevailing system of revenue management. In rain crops, a third or a fourth of the produce was taken according to the class of land. In cold and hot weather crops the Darbar share was a fourth or a fifth of crop share according to the class of land.

Ramas[5]

The revenue system was the *bhagbatai* with *vero*, the Darbar taking ¼th of the produce, but on chillies and tobacco, a bighoti of Rs. 3-8-0 was charged.

1. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha Agency for the year*, 1894-95.
2. *Ibid*.
3. *Ibid*.
4. *Ibid*.
5. *Ibid*.

Dabhal[1]

The taluka was divided in two parts. *viz.*, Dabha pata and Bhudasana pata. *Bhagbatai* system prevailed in the matter of land revenue recovery.

Pol (Vijaynagar)[2]

The revenue system was the *bhagbatai* in the wilder villages. A system of lumpsum payments by the headman also obtained.

Vakhatapur[3]

The Kaltar system prevailed in the collection of revenue recovery.

Ilol[4]

The *bighoti* system had been introduced and the land revenue was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 17,000.

Sudasana[5]

Only two villages of this State are in Sabarkantha district. The land revenue system was the *bhagbatai* with the usual *vero* and *sukhadi*.

Magodi[6]

The land revenue system was *bhagbatai* with *vero* and *sukhadi*.

Dadhalia[7]

The revenue system was the *bhagbatai* with *vero* and *sukhadi*.

Valasana[8]

Only two villages of this State are in Sabarkantha district. The *bhagbatai* or *vaje* system prevailed.

1. MASTER F. S., *The Mahikantha Directory*, Vol. I, Rajkot, (1922), p. 189.
2. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha Agency for the year*, 1894-95.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 200.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 183.
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid*
7. *Ibid.*
8. MASTER F. S., *The Mahikantha Directory*, Vol. I, Rajkot, (1922), p. 189.

Gabat[1]

The Vighoti system prevailed.

The Revenue Administration in Prantij Taluka and Modasa Mahal

The account of revenue history of Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal is based on the conditions prevailing in Ahmedabad district to which they belonged till 1948. Some idea of the early history of revenue management of Ahmedabad district is available from the description given by Mr. Prescott in his Report on the Original Settlement of the Daskroi Taluka. Before the Muslim conquest of Gujarat, according to the report, most villages appeared to have paid revenue whether directly to the Anhilwar Sovereign or to any tributory chiftains in the shape of a certain proportion of the actual produce of cultivated lands. It seemed likely that even in early times, a fixed money payment according to the extent of lands cultivated was levied in lieu of the produce rent upon certain more valuable crops such as sugar-cane.

After the Muslim conquest of Gujarat, the Government managed and levied revenue from villages either directly or indirectly. In the district, further removed from the seat of power and in which consequently the authority of Government was weakened by distance, the Rajputs or Koli Chiefs were permitted under the name of Talukadars to retain possession of their Estates on payment of tribute or in other cases powerful Musalmans or others not originally the Chiefs of villages, were granted mahals upon lease.

Another notable revenue relic of the Mughal period in the district was the revenue survey of Raja Todarmal in certain paraganas. The survey began in 1579 A. D. and about 20 years later, as revised by Nawab Shahbuddin Khan, it remained in force till the death of Aurangzeb. (1707 A. D.). However, as the survey was not carried out fully, the Prantij and Modasa remained unsurveyed.

The Maratha rule was established in Gujarat in 1755 A. D. Then the revenues were divided between Peshwa and the Gaikwar, like those of the city of Ahmedabad. The farming system was adopted by both. They farmed out villages either severally at once to a mere speculator, unconnected with them or singly to Patels or to some influential cultivators. The farmers of the district managed individual villages through the Patels who distributed the demand amongst the cultivators in the manner convenient to them. This system of general farms with sub-farms to Patels and hereditary officers was responsible for the creation of an extraordinary complexity of

1. Master F. S., *The Mahikantha Directory*, Vol. I, Rajkot, (1922) p. 209.

tenures and system of revenue management found in existence at the introduction of British Rule.

A Period of Leases (1803-1817 A. D.)

It may be recalled that of the territories that formed the Ahmedabad district, the western portion of Dholka including parts of Sanand, Dhandhuka and Gogha came under the British management in 1802 A. D. and 1803 A. D. and Viramgam, the rest of Sanand, Daskroi, Prantij and Modasa in 1817 A. D. By the Treaty of Poona in 1817, the Peshwa ceded his share in the city of Ahmedabad and the sub-divisions of Daskroi with sub-divisions of Viramgam and Prantij and his share in Modasa and Harsol. Prantij and Modasa came under the British management in 1817. The conditions of these areas are dealt with from 1818 onwards.

Period of Progress (1818-1830 A. D.)

The period of 35 years from the formation of Ahmedabad district in 1818 A. D., to the introduction of the revenue survey in 1853 A. D. may be divided into two parts (a) from 1818 to 1830 A. D., a period of progress, and (b) from 1831 to 1852 A. D. a period of depression. The first period of progress was marked by a rise in produce prices in its initial years. As a result cultivators got considerable profit and the high prices greatly encouraged cultivation. This development was subsequently checked by a great fall in prices in 1827 A. D. and in the following years.

Prantij Taluka and Modasa Mahal between 1818 and 1821 A. D.

In Ahmedabad district the Daskroi, Viramgam and Prantij were, except the central lands of the Daskroi, in a most depressed and disorderly condition. Chuvalia Kolis in the north were turbulent. Common people lived upon plunder. The result was that the Chief's revenue was derived from a share in their booty. The headmen were the Government Agents for collecting the revenue. The amount of their contribution was generally fixed and realised by the commander of the Army. In Prantij and Harsol in 1819 A. D. there were extensive waste lands : " oppression and insecurity were driving people away and tillage was decreasing". Kolis harassed and plundered people with impunity. The weak-kneed Gaikwad's officers had generally to purchase their forbearance. At the sight of the revenue collecting force, the Kolis retired to inaccessible hills and returned to their villages after departure of the army. *Ghasdana* was also exacted by the Gaikwad army.

The villages were divided into two classes (1) *khalsa*, and (2) *girasia* (proprietary). In the proprietary villages the Government demand was a fixed tribute. In a few sharehold (*patidar*) villages, the rental was fixed

with the body of shares. This rental varied with every season, because of the varying state of crops. In the simple or seza villages, the rental was fixed by inspection of crops. In short, the rental was in all cases based upon the right of Government to a certain share in the crop. The share varied with different crops and with different harvests from one half to one-sixth or even one-eighth. The amount was either a share of the crops or its estimated money value fixed by panchayat. Mr. Dunlop was inclined to think that the normal rate was very often higher than the land could afford to pay and that under such circumstances, cultivation was possible only because Government failed to realise their supposed full share or because alongwith the highly taxed land, rent free, or quit-rent land was held.

Elphinstone's Measures, 1821

The appointment of Government village accountants and the interference with the management of proprietary villages was a little too rapidly pressed on. When Mr. Elphinstone, the then Governor of Bombay visited the district, he thought that the results in some respects were unsatisfactory. He expressed grave doubts as to the wisdom of introducing a survey on the ground that it might tend to subvert the existing property by the altered arrangements. He believed that the Rajput chiefs and landlords should as far as possible, be left in the position of tributaries. Their payment might be raised once in six or seven years; but this should be done only when the proprietors could afford it. No accountants should be appointed and no inquiries be made about the produce of their estates. In short, he was for maintaining the *status quo*. He found that the leasing of the villages to the highest bidder was unavoidable, while their resources were not known but was injurious to the villages It deserved to be discontinued. Mr. Elphinstone, therefore, did not approve of Mr. Dunlop's proposal for introducing a system of six to ten-year leases. This was because he found the assessment both high and unfair in its incidence. Despite this, he found the district "well managed". The upper classes of landholders, the men of capital and the district officers had suffered; the revenue in some cases had been strained to the highest pitch and the strict process of the civil courts had caused much loss and hardship to debtors. Still order had been established; crime in great measures put down and the revenue collected without much difficulty. The influx of settlers from other districts (especially from Kadi) seemed to show that the peasants were not too heavily burdened.

During the year 1820 to 1826 A. D., the survey of the district was carried out by Capt. Cruikshanks and Lt Melvill. The survey included (1) a preparation of maps (2) a minute inquiry into the resources and conditions of each village, and (3) the settlement of boundary disputes.

The Prantij Modasa and Bavad which are now included in the Sabarkantha district were surveyed between 1824 A. D and 1826 A D The

(Bk) H-57—62 (Lino)

survey was limited to the *rastis* or quiet Government villages. Information, however, was not available for proprietary villages of Prantij taluka. Besides the description of the revenue systems of the district this survey reports contained a lot of details which threw lurid light on the social conditions of the tract in the early part of 19th century.

In the eastern parts of Prantij, Harsol, Modasa and Bayad (1824-26 A. D.) though the land revenue demand was low, there were several other exactions. The Rajput and Koli Chief's claims had been settled and were paid from Government treasure. But the Maratha Ghasdana (grass and grains) levies caused much distress. The whole charges of Ghasdana and other cesses amounted to an addition of 40 per cent on the amount assessed and actually paid to Gaikwad. According to the survey officers, a district crop division in this poor tract seemed better than any rate that might be fixed.

From 1825 to 1830 A. D. the fall in prices checked the rapid spread of tillage that had marked the first years of the British till Sir John Malcolm found the state of the district satisfactory in 1830 A. D. He further noticed that Mr. Elphinstone's changes had worked well and that the condition of the proprietary classes had improved.

The survey details of Prantij, Harsol, Modasa and Bayad from 1820-26 may be summarized as under :

Sl. No.	Taluka / Mahal	Villages	Per cent of arable land tilled	Revenue †£
1	Prantij	60	56.34	23
2	Harsol	10	32.16	6
3	Modasa	35	22.09	8
4	Bayad	15	29.85	6

†£ = Rs. 10

In order to give a proper picture of the revenue history the details are given about Prantij and Modasa period-wise. The first period relates from 1824 to 1880 and second period gives history from 1881 onwards.

Prantij and Modasa (1824-1860)[1]

During 35 years between 1824-1860, the chief change in the revenue management was the settlement of a fixed money acre-rate in place of the

1. PATEL G. D. (DR.), *The Land Revenue Settlements and British Rule in India*, Ahmedabad, (1969), p. 35.

old crop-share and plough-tax assessments. Lt. Melvill found the *bhagbatai* system prevalent in this division. In 1837 A. D., Mr. Jackson, Collector of Ahmedabad introduced a *bighoti* settlement in 29 villages of Prantij and in 3 villages of Modasa and in 1851 A. D., Mr. Fawcett, the Collector made a similar settlement in the remaining 42 villages of Modasa and 39 villages of Prantij.

The lands were generally divided into two classes, Akasia, *goradu* (ordinary dry-crop) and 'Kuvetar' or irrigated. These were again divided according to the fertility of the soil, ascertained by the valuation of the Panch into 3 classes : aval, doyam and soem. All the cultivators were divided for the purpose of revenue into Bhartia and Wagar Bhartia classes, *i. e.*, Kanbis and non-Kanbis. The chief basis was the caste of the cultivator. In either class, the rates varied according to individual's wealth and position.

The effect of Mr. Fawcett's Bighoti settlement in 1848 A. D. appears to have been at first injurious both as regards the revenue and the extent of land cultivated. The area of land cultivated in Prantij had fallen from 35,664 acres in 1848 to 32,408 acres in 1849 and in Modasa from 11,371 acres in 1848 to 9,979 acres in 1894 and the realisation also fell in the same year from Rs. 43,597 to Rs. 34,809 in Prantij and from Rs. 13,867 to Rs. 11,649 in Modasa But Capt. Prescott was of the view that the ill effects of the Bighoti settlement were merely temporary. From 1850 A. D., the cultivation recovered itself.

After 1881 the revenue history of Prantij and Modasa is detailed below.

Consequent upon the introduction of the revised rates in the late eighties, considerable area in Prantij and Modasa began to go out of cultivation every year. The Government thereupon reduced the maximum rate of Punsari from Rs. 1-14-0 to Rs. 1-10-0 and remitted 50 per cent of the enhancement in all the villages of Modasa mahal for a period of 5 years. This concession was not extended to Prantij taluka, because Government though it expedient to watch the effect of Ahmedabad-Prantij Railway on the agriculture of the taluka. Although the Railway was introduced in 1897 A. D., no change in the condition of the taluka was noticed and therefore, Government sanctioned the remission of the total enhancement of the revision assessment for 5 years in 42 villages of Prantij. 50 per cent remission was extended to all the villages of Modasa as well. These concessions were further extended for 5 years in 1908 and finally extended till the end of the Revision Settlement. The total effect of the remissions was that the full enhancement of revised assessment was forgone in 42 villages of Prantij taluka and all the villages of Modasa mahal. These remissions were in addition to the usual remissions and suspensions granted by Government. The Settlement Officer found that the existence of a large

area of waste land was the most depressing feature of the agricultural conditions of the Modasa mahal and parts of the Prantij taluka.[1]

Land Reforms

The twin objectives of land reforms are the stepping-up of the agricultural production and the establishment of a socialistic order of society for social justice. So far as Sabarkantha district is concerned after Idenpendence various measures for the land reforms have been undertaken. The Sabarkantha district as it exists to-day is the product of merger of States and Estates and Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal of Ahmedabad district. Before Independence in these areas, there were various special Inams and non-ryotwari land tenures on which land was held by persons. These tenures were a product of a long evolution determined by the geographical, economic, social and political conditions prevailing at different times of history of the district. They originated in the exigencies of administration and the overriding considerations of political expediency.

It was not out of any generosity that the previous rulers-whether the Hindus, the Muslims, the Marathas or the British-alienated villages, lands and cash allowances but all grants were dictated by the political necessity, the need of support to the existing rule and permanent stable revenues to the State. In order to achieve these objectives, the leading men of the village or groups of villages and the district such as Inamdars, Pargana Watandars, Jagirdars, etc., were selected and given inams in the form of entire villages, lands, revenues and cash allowances.

Such types of grants were necessary in those uncertain political conditions when the means of transport and communications and the art of administration had not developed on the present scientific basis. With the unification of India under the British regime and with the advent of Independence, the political need for continuing those Inamdars, Watandars and Jagirdars, who were intermediaries, between Government and actual tillers of the soil, did not survive. Such intermediaries, outlived their utility in the new democratic set-up as embodied in the Constitution of India. As a result, Government of India laid down a policy for removal of all such intermediaries from the land administration by enacting special legislation. In furtherance of this policy, the former State Government of Bombay enacted special legislation for abolition of the inams and watans and the non-ryotwari tenures.

1. Paras 23, and 26 of Mr. Moulvi's Report No. RST, dated 5th March, 1925, SS No. DCXXXIII-NS, Prantij Taluka and Modasa Mahal, pp. 9-11.

   Cited in the book, *the Land Revenue Settlement and the British Rule in India*, *Ahmedabad*, (1969), pp. 279-280.

In Sabarkantha district, there were inams, watan and non-ryotwari tenures which might be divided into proprietary and non-proprietary. They are as under :

Sl. No.	Proprietary Tenures	Sl. No.	Non-proprietary Tenures
1	Talukdari	1	Matadari
2	Personal Inams	2	Ankadia
3	Paragana Watans	3	Jagirs
4	Jagirs		
5	Political Inams		
6	Community Service Inams		
7	Miscellaneous Alienations		
8	Devasthan Inams		

The revenue-farming system arose during the rule of the Mughals and the Muslims who being alien to the country had to employ the local leaders and landlords for collection of land revenue and village administration. The Ankadedars used to collect land revenue on behalf of Government and paid a fixed amount to Government in those times of scant communications and transport. Such revenue farmers were the cheapest instrument for collection of land revenue, although they, more often than not became the engines of oppression in the villages. But the safeguarding of the Government revenue by the cheapest method of collection was then the paramount consideration.

As regards the service inams, the Paragana watans in Bombay were assigned for remuneration of service. The paragana watandars collected revenue from a group of villages or talukas and paid to Government the amount fixed for any particular year. Government did not lay down rules for recovery of land revenue, full freedom having been given to watandars in this respect. However, much the British desired to remove them from the village administration, they could not be removed because they were in the monopolistic possession of village records and other revenue knowledge. In order to remove the Paragana watandars from the village administration, the British Government appointed village accountants for villages and Mamlatdars for each taluka for the revenue administration. Later on, in the sixties of the last century, Government clipped their wings by commuting their service watans and continuing the watan lands and villages subject to payment of Judi.

The community service inams held by Joshis, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc., were also the legacy of the past administration. These village servants were needed for service of the community. They were settled in villages by grant of parcels of lands. The British settled certain inams and removed

several useless village servants. But useful village servants like Mukhis and Matadars were continued with their inams subject to payment of Judi to Government.

The non-service inams consisting of personal inams and political and saranjam inams were respectively rewards for services rendered in the past and for maintenance of certain historical families. There was a large body of inams spread over the whole of Gujarat. They had become frankly non-functional.

The non-ryotwari tenures showed a medley of tenures arising out of different political conditions. Out of them, the Talukdars were the most important and powerful. The Talukadars were not the grantees of the British and enjoyed rights to mines, minerals, trees and forest antedating the advent of the British. Their lands were neither alienated nor unalienated. The Jagirs covered a maze of entire villages alienated by the rulers of States, non-jurisdictional Thakors and estate holders, who executed the Zamindari Agreements on integration in 1948-49. It included grants of entire villages made by or recognised by Government.

Lastly, the miscellaneous alienations of the merged territories covered alienations such as community, village service inams, paragana watans, etc. They comprised both service and non-service alienations. The Devasthan inams were granted for the maintenance of religious places of worship.

In order to abolish the intermediaries and special land tenures, the former Bombay Government undertook special legislation soon after the integration of the States and Estates. They are dealt with below.

The following Land Reforms Laws are applicable to the Sabarkantha district.

1 The Bombay Taluqdari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949.

2 The Bombay Personal Inams Abolition Act, 1952.

3 The Paragana and Kulkarni Watans Abolition Act. 1950.

4 The Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.

5 The Bombay Merged Territories (Baroda Watans) Abolition Act, 1953.

6 The Bombay Merged Territories (Matadari Tenure) Abolition Act. 1953.

7 The Bombay Merged Territories (Ankadia Tenure) Abolition Act, 1953.

8 The Bombay Service Inams Useful to Community (Gujarat and Kokans) Resumption Rules, 1954.

9 The Bombay Merged Territories Miscellaneous Alienations Abolition Act, 1955.

10 The Bombay Inferior Village Watans Abolition Act, 1958.

11 The Gujarat Patel Watans Abolition Act, 1961

12 The Gujarat Surving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963.

13 The Gujarat Devsthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969.

14 The Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1947.

15 The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960.

The Bombay Taluqdari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949

The Talukdari tenure was the most important tenure amongst the proprietary tenures of Gujarat. It was prevalent in the Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal of the former Ahmedabad district merged at present in the district

The Talukdars of Gujarat were indentical with the ruling families of Saurashtra and other Agencies. Their loss of political power was ascribed to the geographical accident of their estates being situated in the *rasti* (settled) portion of the Bombay State brought under the direct control of the British, whereas their kinsmen in the *Mulkgiri* (unsettled) portion in the Saurashtra area continued to be treated as tributaries. Thus, those who were fortunate to be in Saurashtra under the British settlement retained political power and those whose lot was cast within the Bombay State became non-jurisdictional Thakors. The Talukdars of the estates belonged to different castes, *viz.*, Muslims, Kathis, Charans, Vaghelas, Chudasamas, Kolis, Thakardas, etc. These Talukdars comprised men of varying positions ranging from juridictional chiefs to holders of a few parcels of lands in a coparcenary estate.

The fundamental characteristic of the Talukdari tenure was that the Talukdari estate was neither alienated nor unalienated. The Talukdars were not the grantees of the British but enjoyed proprietary rights in their

estates antedating the advent of the British rule including ownership of mines, minerals, trees and forests. The historical evidence is that the Talukdars were settled by the Mughals as actual proprietors of their estates with the simple liablity of paying the tribute to Government. After the Muslim rule, the Maratha domination made no change in the tenurial status of the Talukdars. The British on accession continued to levy the amount of tribute as hithertofore but the amount was increased by 50 per cent in 1821 A. D. The status and the tributary obligations of the Talukdars remained in a nebulous state till their rights and responsibilities were settled by the Gujarat Taluqdars' Act, 1888. It provided, *inter-alia*, for the revenue administration of the estates.

Under that Act, all the Talukdari estates were held subject to the payment of jama to Government which was either udhad (fixed in perpetuity) or fluctuating. The Settlement Registers were prepared for each village, which served the purpose of the Record of Rights in those estates.

In these estates, large areas of lands were alienated to cadets, widowers of the family and relatives for maintenance, village servants, either in reward for past service or as remuneration for services to be performed. The holders of these lands paid no revenue either to the Talukdar or to Government generally. The service inam (chakariat) lands were resumable at will, but in other cases of the alienations, the Talukdars had a reversionary right in the event of the failure of the male heirs. These alienations fell into three categories.

(1) the alienations made prior to the British rule, *i. e*. before 1818 A. D ;

(2) the alienations made between 1818 and 1888 A. D., *i e*. after the introduction of the British rule and before the passing of the Gujarat Taluqdars' Act, 1888, and

(3) the post-Act alienations.

The alienations were called *Lal-liti* lands because they were recorded in red ink in the old faisal patraks. In the Settlement Registers prepared in the twenties of this century, such alienated lands were also recorded in red ink *Lal-liti* lands, but were subject to jama liabilities of varying character.

The pre-British alienations were settled by Mr. Peile in 1864 A. D. The holders of the lands paid no jama or paid only half salami. Such alienations were recognised if found recorded in the Kharadas (the land registers) of 1818-20 or at the time of survey in 1863 A. D. The 1818-1888 alienations were those which were not so recognised by prescription and upon which jama was not levied. When these lands reverted to the Talukdar, they

became ordinary lands of the Talukdar liable to payment of full jama. The third category of the alienations were covered by section 31 of the Gujarat Talukadars' Act, 1888. Under the said section, a Talukdar could not encumber his estate beyond his lifetime without the permission of the Talukdari Settlement Officer (the Collector) and could not alienate the same without the sanction of Government. So, all post-Act alienations made in contravention of the Act were null and void.

The Talukdars had a reversionary right to the alienations in case an alienee died or left the village, provided possession had not passed into the hands of others either by sale or mortgage. If such lands had passed into the hands of non-Talukdars for more than 12 years, they lost the Talukdari character by adverse possession.

The Talukdars were exempted from the payment of jama as regards certain lands alienated by them before 1888 A. D. and as regards other classes of such lands, they were required to pay as jama 50 per cent of the proceeds derived by them therefrom. There were two wantas in the Prantij taluka of the district. The total area held under these wantas was 1127 A. 32 G.[1]

The tenants in the villages were invariably tenants-at-will; but the evictions being rare, they continued cultivation of the same lands for generations.

The statistical information about these estates in the district is set out below.

District	Number of Talukdari Villages	Number of Wantas
Sabarkantha	44	2
Total	44	2

1. Amongst the alienations, the problem of wanta lands in the Talukdari estates was very important. The wantas were a trace of the Mughal Settlement. It was a sort of the Talukdari tenure within talukdari estate and, therefore, Peile called the Wanta holders as "ex-talukdars". These wanta lands were entered as Lal-liti lands in the Settlement Registers. The wantas were of two kinds, *viz*., (1) the Summary Settlement wantas treated as personal inams in tail male; and (2) the Talukdari Wantas subject to jama and classed as "land especially reduced". The wanta holders had generally no documentary evidence to prove their title during the period prior to the enactment of Act VII of 1863; because such lands were not assigned but were the lands retained after surrendering 3/4ths of the area of the village of the Muslim rulers. Some wantas were settled under the Summary Settlement Act VII of 1863 and subjected to payment of quit-rent under the terms of the Sanads issued to them. Other wantas which were not so settled continued to pay Udhad Jama. The wantas held by the Talukdars differed in no way from the whole villages owned by that class.

In order to remove these intermediaries from the Talukdari estates, the Bombay Taluqdari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949, was enacted. It abolished the Talukdari tenure with all its incidents with effect from 15th August, 1950. The Talukdars holding the talukdari lands and cadets holding any talukdari land hereditarily for the purpose of maintenance (*jiwai*) have been recognised as occupants thereof and liable to payment of full assessment. Since the 1st March, 1955, the permanent tenants and inferior holders paying assessment to the Talukdars are made eligible to the rights of occupancy on payment of 6 or 3 times the assessment respectively--the multiples cover the occupancy price and the compensation for the rights of reversion abolished.

It is true that with effect from 15th August, 1950, all lands in the Talukdari villages had become liable to payment of full assessment. But there were two exceptions, *viz.*, (1) the talukdari wantas which were paying Udhad Jama, and (2) the lands in respect of which the settlement guarantee had not expired. The settlement guarantee operated in the case of the ex-talukdari villages in the following talukas of the district.

District		Taluka	The Settlement Guarantee operated upto
Sabarkantha	..	Prantij and Modasa	31st, July, 1962

As a result, eventhough the Talukdari tenure was abolished and the lands were made liable to payment of full assessment, the lands in those villages continued to pay jama and not assessment during the operation of the settlement guarantee.

Lal-liti Lands[1]

The determination of the liability of the *Lal-liti* (alienated) in those villages has proved a difficult problem. The Lal-llti lands were not generally taken into consideration at the time of calculating jama payable by the Talukdars to Government. As a result, they were not covered by the Settlement Guarantee operating in respect of the entire talukdari villages. Consequently, *Lal-liti* lands became liable to payment of full assessment with effect from 15th August, 1950 the date on which the Act came into force. But the *Lal-liti* lands covered more than one category of the alienated lands. To begin with, it covered the wanta lands settled under the Summary Settlement Act VII of 1863 and continued as the private property of the holder on payment of quit-rent to Government. Such wanta lands were of the nature of the personal inams, which came to be abolished under the Bombay Personal Inams Abolition Act, 1952, with effect from

1. There were no Lal-liti lands in the district.

1st August, 1953 according as the exemption from the payment of assessment was or exceeded Rs. 5,000 or was below that amount.

Secondly, as regards the talukdari wantas, which paid Udhad Jama to Government, the liability to full assessment commenced with effect from 1st August, 1953 the appointed day mentioned in section 20 of the Bombay Personal Inams Abolition Act, 1952, which withdrew the exemption enjoyed by such wantas under section 5(2) of the Bombay Taluqdari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949.

Thirdly, the *Lal-liti* lands covered other alienations such as *chakariat* lands, devasthan and dharmada lands and lands held by non-talukdars. Some of them were subject to payment of jama at 50 per cent although they were shown as *Lal-liti* lands in the Settlement Registers. Such lands became liable to full assessment with effect from 15th August, 1950, when the Act was brought into force. But their liability for land revenue raises a question of the general policy of great importance in regard to the devasthan and dharmada lands held by religious and charitable institutions in those villages. It is a well-known fact that extensive areas are held by the religious institutions like the temples of Swaminarayan, Bhimnath and others.

The Act vests in Government certain properties of a public nature on payment of compensation as under.

Name of property vested in Government	Compensation provided at
(a) Uncultivated but cultivable land ..	a sum not exceeding three times the assessment of the lands
(b) the lands used by the public ..	a sum equal to one time the assessment of the land.
(c) tree or structures on lands ..	market value thereof.
(d) abolition of exemption from payment of assessment (partial or full).	no compensation.

For extinguishment or abridgment of rights not specially provided in the Act, compensation could also be claimed by the Talukdars concerned.

The implications of the tenure Abolition Act are far-reaching. It has abolished a privileged class from the society.

This Act applies to 45 villages of the district. Before abolition of the talukdari tenure there were 4,150 tenure-holders. The tenure covered an area of 87,568 A. 06 G. assessed at Rs. 91,783·47. The tenure-holders paid

Rs. 27,593·26 as Judi to Government. After the abolition of the tenure, 12,302 persons became occupants for an area measuring 70,352, A. 37 G. assessed at Rs. 90,618·91. Of the 12,302 tenure-holders, 680 persons got occupancy rights on payment of occupancy price in respect of 29,449 A. 31 G. assessed at Rs. 37,392·76. The persons who got occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price numbered 6,222 for an area measuring 40,903 A. 06 G. and assessed at Rs. 52,226·15.

The properties measuring 15,012 A. 34 G. and assessed at Rs. 1,172·13 were vested in Government under the Act. As regards compensation, 44 claims were filed and decided. The total compensation amount awarded aggregated to Rs. 1,17,099·99. Out of this amount, Rs. 2,849·99 were paid in cash and Rs. 1,14,250·00 in bond.

The Bombay Personal Inams Abolition Act, 1952

The personal inams were grants made or recognised by the British Government in appreciation of services rendered by persons to Government in diverse circumstances of trying character. In the beginning of the 19th century, the British Government wanted a loyal class who would support their rule and administration at all levels. Such a class was found in such grantees by the British. This class of inams were found in the Prantij and Modasa mahals, of the former Ahmedabad district, which merged in the Sabarkantha district. They consisted of entire villages, lands, amals (shares from village revenue) and cash allowances. It covered personal inams adjudicated by the Inam Commission and under the Summary Settlement Acts of 1863. The Acts converted into transferable freehold all such inams whether they were adjudicated by the Inam Commission or not, subject to payment of quit-rent of respective 2 or 4 annas in a rupee with or without Nazarana. Besides, there were certain "terminable inams" which had been adjudicated to be continuable not hereditarily but only for one life or a few lives. They were also enfranchised by Government in 1864 subject to payment of judi equal to ⅓, ½ and ⅓ assessment according as the inam was continuable for one, two or three lives, respectively. Thus, the inams were private enfranchised property of the holders subject to payment of Judi to Government. The rights to trees, forests, mines and minerals where not specially reserved by Government, were conceded to the holders.

After the dawn of Independence, this class of vested interests became outdated and outlived their utility. Their inams were, therefore, abolished under the Bombay Personal Inams Abolition Act, 1952 with effect from 1st August, 1953. The Act abolished all the incidents of the inams and resumed cash allowances and amals. All lands, which were partially or wholly exempt from payment of assessment, were made liable to payment of full assessment.

The personal inams consisted of the following categories :

(1) grants consisting of exemption from payments of land revenue only ;

(2) grants consisting of soil with or without exemption from payment of land revenue ;

(3) grants consisting of assignment of land revenue called "amals" ; and

(4) cash allowances.

If the inams consisted of grant of exemption from payment of assessment below Rs. 5,000, full assessment became leviable from 1st August, 1955 and if the exemption was upto or exceeded that limit, the liability to pay full land revenue commenced on 1st August, 1953. The grants which consisted of soil accompained with or without exemption from payment of land revenue became so liable from 1st August, 1953. Broadly speaking, all inams adjudicated by the Inam Commission generally were treated as grants of soil with or without exemption and those settled under the Summary Settlement Acts of 1863 were treated as consisting of grants of exemption from payment of land revenue only. If the grants consisted of the amals and cash allowances, they came to be resumed with effect from 1st August, 1953.

The fundamental fact about the Act was that the holders of inams were not dispossessed of their lands but their lands were subjected to payment of full assessment only. They were made occupants of their lands. Besides occupancy rights were recognised in respect of the lands held by inferior holders paying assessment to the Inamdars.

Certain lands and properties of a public character and waste and uncultivated lands were vested in Government and were subsequently assigned for public purposes such as grazing, cattle-stand, play-grounds, etc.

As regards extinguishment of rights in lands, the pattern of compensation provision was quite analogous to that of the Taluqdari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949. And for resumption of amals and cash allowances, a quantum of seven times the amount of the allowance was provided. For levy of full assessment on the wholly or partially exempt lands, no compensation was payable [section 17 (5)].

The Act was applicable to one entire village and 91 scattered lands. Before the Act came into force, there were 92 Inam-holders. The inams

covered an area of 17,818 A. 28 G. assessed at Rs. 20,567·70. The Inam-holders paid Rs. 6,626·32 as Judi to Government.

After the abolition of the inams 4,312 persons became occupants in respect of area measuring 17,647 A. 36 G. and assessed at Rs. 30,563·58. Of the 4,312 Inamdars, 4,272 Inamdars got occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price in respect of 17,438 A. 29 G. assessed at Rs. 30,249·58 and 40 Inferior Holders also got occupancy right without payment of occupancy price in respect of 209 A. 07 G. assessed at Rs. 314. The total properties measuring 169 A. 32 G. assessed at Rs. 283·80 have been vested in the Government. In respect of compensation, it may be stated that 43 claims have been filed and decided. The total amount of compensation paid was Rs. 11,842·50. Of this amount Rs. 4,392·50 were paid in cash and Rs. 7,450 in bond.

The Paragana and Kulkarni Watans Abolition Act, 1950

The Kulkarni watans were found all over Maharashtra. But in Gujarat, there was only one Kulkarni watan in Kapadvanj in the Kaira district. The paragana watans were, however, found in all the districts of Gujarat. The Paragana watandars were called Deshpandes, Deshmukhs, Amins, Desais and Majmudars were the chief instruments in collection of the revenues of the State from the time of the Muslim rulers.

The Paragana and Kulkarni watans were abolished from the whole Bombay State with effect from 1st May, 1951 under the Bombay Paragana and Kulkarni Watans Abolition Act, 1950. The Act abolished the watans with all their incidents After resumption of the watan lands, the ex-watandars were not dispossessed of those lands but were made eligible for re-grant of the resumed lands on new tenure on payment of occupancy price equal to six times the assessment fixed on the land within a period of 5 years from 1st May, 1951. If such lands were to be made transferable or partiable, a Nazarana equal to 20 times the assessment was to be paid to Government in six instalments within one year.

These provisions of re-grant would apply only to the inalienable watans of the Deccan and the Ahmedabad district the parts of which have been merged in Gogha mahal of the Bhavnagar district and Modasa and Prantij talukas in the Sabarkantha district. Unless the ex-watandars had paid the Nazarana stipulated in the sanads for converting their watan lands into private enfranchised property and unless there was a decision or order of any competent court or authority, the ex-watandars became liable to re-grant of the resumed lands on payment of 6 times the assessment fixed on the land. They were not saved under section 4(3) of the Act.

The properties mentioned in section 37 of the Land Revenue Code, 1879, and other properties used by the public have been vested in Government.

It should be noted that the vesting in this Act differs from similar provisions in other Acts, as the waste and uncultivated lands were not vested in Government but they were granted to the former watandars on payment of the prescribed occupancy price to Government.

This Act is made applicable to 68 villages in the district. Before the Act came into force, there were 136 tenure-holders. The watans covered an area of 816 A. 09 G. and assessed at Rs. 1,565·64. The tenure-holders paid Rs. 437·15 as Judi to Government. After the abolition of the watans, 138 persons became occupants in respect of 816 A. 09 G. assessed at Rs. 1,565·64 without payment of occupancy price.

The Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953

Like the Saranjams and Political inams in the districts of the pre merger Gujarat, there were Jagirs covering several categories in the merged territories and areas. They could be broadly divided into two categories, *viz.*, (1) those granted for maintenance to the members of the royal family, and (2) those granted in services to the State or valour in war. These two categories of Jagirs were found in all the former States and Estates of Gujarat. The maintenance grants were called *jiwarak*, *jiwai* or *Ayada* and were held generally by the younger brothers of the rulers and cadets.

In the former States of Idar, Malpur, etc., certain Jagirs were given to the Sardars for military service under *pattas*. They were, therefore, called *Patavati* jagirs. In the State of Idar, there were Bhomia Jagirs which antedated the advent of the British. The Jagirdars were on the soil and were, therefore, not the grantees of the rulers. In 1948, certain holders of the States and Estates in the district of Sabarkantha executed the Zamindari agreements. Under these agreements, the estate-holders were entitled to collect rent in cash or kind from the cultivators of these villages and had to pay to the Government only the total annual contribution which they used to pay to the Government of India before the merger till the survey and settlement were introduced in those States. As a result, Government could not assume the entire administration of small estates in Sabarkantha. Thus, the Zamindari agreements created a new type of intermediary interests like the Jagirs. They might be called "Zamindari Jagirs". In short, the expression 'Jagirs' covered a medley of grants for maintenance, appreciation or remuneration created for reasons of political expediency or exigencies of administration.

As stated above, most of the Jagiri villages were situated in the former State of Idar, and the small estates merged in the Sabarkantha district. Most of the Jagiri villages in the States and estates mentioned above were surveyed and settled during the State regimes. But the Jagirs covered with hills, forests and saline sandy soils were not surveyed and settled. In

these Jagirs, the systems of land revenue were *bhagbatai*, *vaje* and *hol narwa* (Plough tax). In Idar under the *bhagbatai* and *vaje* systems, the States's share was fixed on an *ad hoc* basis. The caste of the cultivator often determined the amount of land revenue payable by a particular cultivator. In the States like Idar, cultivators were granted occupancy rights on payment of Sakar, Nazarana or market value.

There were entire Jagiri villages in the district, which were held partly or wholly free from payment of assessment to the Rulers concerned.

All these Jagirs were abolished under the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953, with effect from the 1st August, 1954. The Act applies to grants consisting of entire alienated villages and portions of villages and not to the scattered lands and cash allowances. It classifies the Jagirs into proprietary and non-proprietary. Besides, it recognises another category of Jagirs called the lifetime *jiwai* Jagirs. Such Jagirs could be either proprietary or non-proprietary.

Occupancy rights are recognised in respect of Gharkhed lands held by Jagirdars or cadets and the lands held by permanent holders. Tenants in proprietary and non-proprietary villages are made eligible to the rights of occupancy on payment of the occupancy price equal to six multiples of assessment, to the Jagirdars and the State, respectively. As usual, the devasthan and dharmada inams held for the institutions and inams held for service useful to Government were saved. They are now abolished under the Devasthan Abolition Act, 1969.

The vesting of public properties and lands is on the analogy of other Abolition Acts. There is also the usual saving of the Jagirdars' rights to mines, minerals and forests.

As regards compensation provision the pattern of the Bombay Taluqdari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949, is followed for the proprietary Jagirs and that of Ankadia Tenure Abolition Act, 1953 for non-proprietary Jagirs. In the case of the lifetime *jiwai* Jagirs, however, the compensation is provided at ten times the average amount of land revenue recovered by or due to the Jagirdar.

As the abolition of the personal inams created uproar amongst the Inamdars in the State, the abolition of the Jagirs created much consternation and uproar amongst the Jagirdars in the merged territories and areas. Next to the personal inams, this measure has affected all sorts of holders of Jagirs in one respect or the other.

This Act is made applicable to 751 villages of the district. Before the Act came into force there were 1,100 tenure-holders covering an area

of 8,33,658 A. 28 G. and assessed at Rs. 6,21,238·64. The tenure-holders paid Rs. 2,162,745·69 as Judi to Government.

After implementation of the Act, 66,341 persons became occupants in respect of an area measuring 6,34,464 A. 33 G. and assessed at Rs. 5,85,292·59. Of the total number of 66,341 persons, 1,100 Jagirdars got occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price in respect of area measuring 1,67,313 A. 27 G. assessed at Rs. 57,143·07; 1,988 were cadets who acquired occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price in respect of an area measuring 16,249 A. 23 G. and assessed at Rs. 15,562·61. There were 1,133 permanent holders who got occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price in respect of an area measuring 10,114 A. 17 G. and assessed at Rs. 14,090·28. The persons who got occupancy rights on payment of occupancy price of Rs. 71,133·53 numbered 2,546 for the area measuring 8,096 A. 08 G. and assessed at Rs. 11,294·45. The total properties measuring 1,34,508 A. 16 G. and assessed at Rs. 33,980·66 were vested in Government under the Act. For compensation, 1,291 claims have been filed and of which 1,275 have been decided. The total amount of compensation awarded was Rs. 31,26,217·68. Out of this amount Rs. 7,92,347·58 was paid in cash and Rs. 23,28,300·00 in bonds. The amount of Rs. 5,570 still remains to be paid.

The Bombay Merged Territories (Baroda Watans) Abolition Act, 1953

Like the Paragana watans of Gujarat, the watans were granted by the ex-Baroda State to certain leading men of the villages who were the chief instruments for the collection of the village revenues. In the early period of the Gaikwad's regime, the Watandars, Desais, Amins and Majmudars were the pivots of the village administration and were the indispensable instruments of revenue collection. The essence of the watan was service for the remuneration of which either land or cash was assigned. Thus, the origin of the watans was in the revenue management of the villages or groups of villages.

The question of the settlement of the watans, which was first taken up in 1889 A. D. was concluded in 1898 A. D. with the framing of the Baroda Watan Rules. The Rules were revised from time to time and finally published in 1932. These Rules never recognised any proprietary interest of the watandars in the watan villages and lands, but they definitely provided that the watan was a service watan and the land or cash emoluments constituted remuneration for service to Government.

Under the Rules, the watans were inalienable not even for the lifetime of the watandars. In the case of unauthorised alienations, the watan lands were made *khalsa*, entered as waste, and put to auction. Although Rule 22 defined 'Service' in the widest and vaguest possible terms, the State treated

the watans purely as service watans subject to service *kapat* (cut) on failure to perform service. The Rules relating to succession were very strict in that even a sharer in the watan was not allowed to inherit another watan or any share in another watan without Government permission. Further, females were permitted to inherit watans but were entitled to maintenance allowance only. At every succession, the watans were subject to *pedhi* (succession) *Kapat*. The service and succession *Kapats* (cuts) made the watans a gradually vanishing quantity in the course of a few generations. This feature distinguished the Baroda watans from those of the Gujarat watans, which, were permanent in character.

It is significant to note that there was no commutation of service before 1949, when the Jivraj Ministry made the watans non-service by absolving the watandars from the obligation of service on payment of service out of 8 or 12 annas in a rupee of assessment of the watan lands. The Bombay Merged Territories (Baroda Watans) Abolition Act, 1953, gave a decent burial to those dwindling watans by total abolition with effect from the 15th August, 1953.

The Act resumed all the watans with their incidents. The watandars were not dispossessed of the lands, but were made eligible to the re-grant of the resumed lands on payment of occupancy price equal to six multiples of assessment fixed on the land. The re-grant was on the new tenure only and for making the occupancy transferable or partible, such occupants will have to pay to Government a Nazarana equal to 20 times the assessment of the land. Thus, for re-grant of the resumed land on the old tenure, the amount aggregating to 26 times the assessment of the land was to be paid to Government.

The Bombay Merged Territories (Matadari Tenure) Abolition Act, 1953

The Matadari Tenure was one of the forms of revenue farming methods of revenue administration. The estates were called 'Matadari' and their holders Matadars, because the holders thereof had to sign a bond for payment of the village revenue to the ruling authority.

There were 5 matadari villages in the district, *viz*. Polajpur (Himatnagar taluka), Ged and Morvad (Prantij taluka) and Chandap and Gajipur (Idar taluka).

Geographically, the estate villages were situated on the border land of the Baroda territory and in many parts inaccessible because they were cut by rivers and ravines. In those unsettled days, Government wanted an intermediary who could collect revenue for Government without much cost of collection. Such an agency was found in the backward but militant Thakardas of the estates.

The villages were under the direct control of the Gaekwad before the British took over the administration of those estates in the beginning of the 19th century. Then, the Matadars were directly and personally responsible for payment of the tribute to Baroda. The amount of the Gaekwad tribute depended more on the means at the disposal of the Gaekwad to enforce its payment than on the capacity of the village to pay. It was recovered by the Mulkgiri army. At the time of the Mahikantha Settlement in 1812 A. D., the amount of the tribute was fixed on the basis of the demands of the previous years. In 1820 A. D., the British Government gave guarantee to recover the tribute from the Bawishi Thana villages and to pay it to the Gaekwad. The result was that the *Mulkgiri* army of the Gaekwad stopped collecting tributes from the villages. Thus much harassment and suffering were stopped by the British.

As regards, the exact status of the Matadars, the British Government decided in 1885 A D. that there were no Chiefs or Talukdars in the Bawishi Thana and that they could not be admitted to the status of the Talukdars. Further Mr. Shattock's findings in 1941 showed that the status and rights of Matadari estate-holder whether in Rajawat or non-Rajawat villages were inferior to those of non-jurisdiction Talukdars and Bhagdars of other Thana areas. Consequently, those estates were merged with Baroda in 1943. Baroda thereafter appointed a Committee to decide the rights and responsibilities of the Matadars. The Committee decided these estates as *ek Ankadia* villages and fixed a lump sum called ' Ankada ' for payment to the Baroda State. But after the issue of the orders, the Government of India detached these estates from Baroda in October, 1949 with the result that, the estates reverted to their status prior to 1943. At the time of the abolition of the estates, the position remained nebulous : the Matadars collected land revenue, paid the Ankada to the Baroda State and enjoyed the surplus. Thus, the Matadars were reduced to the position of revenue farmers without any proprietary interest in their villages. Of course, they held considerable lands as Gharkhed.

The village lands were broadly divided into Sarkari and Barkhali. The alienations consisted of Salamia, Ghasdana, Ranvatia, Jarat Wanta, Vechania, Gharenia, Devsthan, etc.

The Matadari estates were resumed with effect from the 1st January, 1954 under the Bombay Merged Territories (Matadari Tenure) Abolition Act 1953. The estate villages were resumed and made liable to payment of full assessment under the provisions of the Land Revenue Code. The devasthan and dharmada grants held for religious or charitable institutions are not affected.

For abolition of the Matadars' right to enjoy the surplus revenue, compensation is payable at three times the average of the amount of such

portion proved to have been received by him during the five years immediately before the enforcement of the Act.

This Act is made applicable to five villages of the district. Before the abolition of the Matadari tenure, there were 187 tenure-holders. The tenure covered an area of 5,860 A. 09 G. assessed at Rs. 5,356·77. The tenure-holders paid no Judi to Government. After abolition of the tenure, 437 persons became occupants in respect of an area measuring 2,902 A. 06 G. and assessed at Rs. 5,315·31. 187 Matadars got occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price in respect of 963 A. 13 G. assessed at Rs. 926·25. There were 250 other tenure-holders who also got occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price in respect of 1,938 A. 33 G. assessed at Rs. 4,388·91.

The properties measuring 2,957 A. 33 G. assessed at Rs. 5,406·59 were vested in Government. As regards compensation, 5 claims were filed and decided. The total compensation amount paid worked out to Rs. 5,364·08. Out of this amount, Rs. 314·08 were paid in cash and Rs. 5,050 in bond.

The Bombay Merged Territories (Ankadia Tenure) Abolition Act, 1953

The Ankadia system originated in the difficulties inherent in administering the far-flung and hilly regions of the border land owing to uncertain political administrations of the 18th century in Gujarat. Then, Government of the day badly needed a person, who could control the village, collect revenues and pay a fixed sum called 'Ankada' to Government. In the villages other than those of Baroda, the amount of Ankada was fixed under a lease for a number of years. The Ankadia villages of the non-Baroda areas were merged in Sabarkantha. They were regulated by leases or *pattas* which were renewed at the discretion of the Ruler. Pattas generally stipulated renewal and performance of police duties.

There was a distinguishable difference between the Baroda and non-Baroda Ankadia villages. In the former the main purpose of the Ankada was the revenue management of the village, whereas in the latter, the police duties predominated. Further, the former villages were classified into *ek Ankadia* and *farta Ankadia* with sub-divisions into Thakarati and Matadari, whereas the latter were either permanent or periodical.

There were 40 Ankadia villages situated in the district, *viz.*, Meghraj (31), Bayad (3), Modasa (1), Bhiloda (1) and Malpur mahal (2). These villages were neither alienated nor Jagiri villages; but were akin to leasehold villages. They were held by persons of different castes mainly by Thakardas, Rajputs and Adivasi and were confined to Meghraj, Bayad, Modasa and Bhiloda talukas.

The Ankadia tenure was abolished with all its incidents with effect from 15th August, 1953 by the Bombay Merged Territories (Ankadia Tenure Abolition) Act, 1953. The Baroda Rules of 1932 and all the leases were repealed. The villages were resumed and made liable to payment of full assessment under the Land Revenue Code, 1879. The devasthan and dharmada lands held for institutions and lands held for service useful to Government were not affected by the provisions of the Act. Since they are abolished under the Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969, cultivators holding lands in respect of which land revenue or rent was payable to the Ankadedar as an incident of the tenure were also recognised as occupants. In the case of the villages other than Baroda, the Ankadedars in respect of the *gharkhed* lands, and cultivators paying land revenue had been recognised as occupants. Except these persons, other cultivators continue as tenants under the provisions of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948. Thus, the Act has made the *gharkhed* and *jiwai* lands, which were wholly exempt from payment of land revenue liable to full assessment under the Code.

For extinguishment or abridgment of any rights of the Ankadedar, compensation is provided at three times the average of the amount to have been realised annually by the Ankadedar as revenue during the three years immediately before the commencement of the Act. On this basis, in several cases, no compensation was payable to the former Ankadedars.

This Act is applicable to 40 villages in the district. Before the Act came in to force, there were 670 tenure-holders. This tenure covered an area of 36,702 A. 23 G. assessed at Rs. 29,286·48 The tenure-holders paid Rs. 4,336·24 as Judi to Government. After the abolition of the tenure, 670 persons became occupants in respect of area measuring 25,172 A. 60 G. and assessed at Rs. 27,935·81. All 670 Ankdedars got occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price in respect of 25,172 A. 60 G and assessed at Rs. 27,935·81. The properties vested in Government admeasured 11,530 A. 13 G. and were assessed at Rs. 1,279·49.

As regards compensation, it may be stated that 31 claims were filed and decided. The total compensation amount paid was Rs. 27,625·37. Out of this amount, Rs. 675·37 were paid in cash and Rs. 26,750 in bond.

The Bombay Service Inams useful to Community (Gujarat and Kokan) Resumption Rules, 1954

In the village economy of Gujarat, the villages were economically self-sufficient and administratively autonomous. The autonomy of the village units was not affected by the changes in political power. The continuity and stability of the village service was maintained by the village servants useful to community from generation to generation. In order to

meet the needs of the agriculturists and village industries, a group of village servants such as Joshis, Kazis, Khatibs, Suthars, Luhars, Kumbhars, Barbers, etc., grew up. They were called Vasvayas (meaning persons who were settled in the villages for service). By way of inducement, such persons were given scattered lands and cash allowances as emoluments for rendering service to the village community.

Such inams of Gujarat were regulated by the Resumption Rules of 1908. The Bombay Herediatry Offices, Act 1874, was not applicable to those inams, but the Pensions Act, 1871, and the Invalidation of Hindu Ceremonial Emolument Act, 1926, were applicable to these inams.

With the mechanisation of transport facilities, the age-old self-sufficiency of the village economy broke down and the village servants began to look more and more to the towns and cities for gainful employment. Consequently, many village servants left their villages for nearby towns and the stipulated customary service came to be performed perfunctorily. Furthermore the service inam lands came to be alienated to outsider unauthorisedly. Thus, the structure of village service useful to community was shattered by the impact of the mechanised means of transport and machine-made cheap goods of daily necessities Thus, in most cases, these service inams became non-service, for all intents and purposes Consequently Government framed the Bombay Service Inams Useful to Community (Gujarat and Konkan) Resumption Rules, 1954, and resumed all such inams with effect from 1st December, 1954. The Rules are applicable to Gujarat and Konkan only.

The Resumption Rules have abolished inams consisting of (a) grants of soil with or without exemption, and (b) grants of revenue only. In the case of the former, the resumption is outright. Only an inferior holder paying assessment to the Inamdar has been recognised as occupant. In Gujarat, practically all those inams were grants consisting of exemption from payment of land revenue only with the result that the resumption is by levy of full assessment only For the resumption of cash emoluments, compensation is payable at seven times the amount of the emoluments.

In Modasa, Prantij and Himatnagar talukas of the district, there were such service inams. The area covered under these inams was 465 A. 34 G. The holders of these lands have been made occupants with or without payment of occupancy price. No judi was payable in respect of the lands but there was *nuksan* of Rs. 817·81.

The payment of compensation is in form of bonds. The bonds are of the following denominations namely, Rs. 50, and Rs. 100, Rs. 200, Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 10,000: The bonds were payable in equated annual instalments

These Rules were made applicable to some pre-merger Bombay State villages in the district from 1st December, 1954. In the Sabarkantha district before the Rules came into force, there were 10 scattered lands and 113 tenure holders. These tenure holders covered an area of 465 A. 34 G. assessed at Rs. 769·21. The tenure-holders paid Rs 154·60 as Judi to Government. After the abolition of the tenure, 113 persons became occupants in respect of 465 A. 34 G. assessed at Rs. 769·21. 112 inam-holders got occupancy rights in respect of 462 A. 01 G. assessed at Rs. 764·70 without payment of occupancy price. Only one person got occupancy rights in respect of 3 A. 33 G. assessed at Rs. 27·06 on payment of occupancy price.

The Bombay Merged Territories Miscellaneous Alienations Abolition Act, 1955

After the abolition of Baroda Watans and non-Ryotwari tenures such as Ankadia, Jagirs, etc., from the merged territories and areas of the district, several miscellaneous alienations consisting of scattered lands and cash allowances survived. The alienations were mainly made for maintenance to the Maharaj Kumars and other members of the royal family and to other persons as a reward or remuneration of services connected with the administration of the State. In order to abolish them the Miscellaneous Alienations Abolition Act, 1955 was enacted and enforced with effect from 1st August, 1955. The Act applies to the merged territories only and therefore the alienations in the merged areas were not affected. The definition of the expression "alienations" given in the Act covers a wide category of alienations such as entire villages, portions of villages consisting of grants of soil with or without exemption from payment of land revenue, or of assignment of lands revenue, total or partial exemption from payment of land revenue, cash allowances or allowance in kind of any type by the ruling authority before the merger or by the State Government after the merger including wanta and giras lands. Although the definition of 'alienation' covers entire villages, Government has decided that the entire alienated villages should be deemed to have been abolished under the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953 and not under this Act. The net result of these orders is that the Act would cover alienations consisting of scattered lands, assignment of land revenue and cash allowances only.

The Act does not apply to certain types of alienation such as :

(1) Devasthan Inams or inams held by religious or charitable institutions (since abolished under the Act of 1969).

(2) alienations held for service useful to Government other than watan.

(3) any pension granted to an ex-servant of a former Indian State in consideration of the service to a State,

(4) revenue-free site granted for dispensaries, schools, etc.,

Broadly, the Act divides the alienations into the following six categories, *viz.*,

(i) the community service inam lands (section 6),

(ii) the paragana and kulkarni watan lands (section 7),

(iii) the Baroda watan or giras lands (section 8),

(iv) the residual alienations not covered by categories (1) to (3) above (section 9),

(v) cash allowances in cash and kind (section 15) and

(vi) assignments of land revenue (section 14).

As regards the compensation provisions, the pattern of compensation for the lands vested in Government under section 11 is analogous to that in the Bombay Taluqdari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949. But the provisions relating to compensation for abolition of the alienations consiting of assignment of whole or part of land revenue of a village varies according as the assignment was hereditarily subject to service or succession cuts or for the lifetime of the holder. If the assignment was hereditary without any cuts, the compensation at seven times the amount of land revenue is awardable; if it was hereditary but subject to cuts, then five times the amount of such allowance. If it was for the lifetime, only three times the amount of land revenue is awardable.

This Act is made applicable to 195 villages of the district. Before the abolition of the tenure, there were 2,573 tenure-holders. The tenure covered an area of 20,197 A. 39 G. assessed at Rs. 26,936·14. The tenure-holders paid Rs. 1695·19 as Judi to Government. After the abolition of the alienations 4,197 persons became occupants in respect of an area admeasuring 18,657 A. 18 G. and assessed at Rs. 26,522·58. 1,207 inferior holders got occupancy rights on payment of occupancy price in respect 4,199 A. 34 G. assessed at Rs. 6,507·23. 773 other allenees also got occupancy rights on payment of occupancy price in respect of an area measuring 4,291 A. 35 G. and assessed at Rs. 4,431·16.

The total properties measuring 1,540 A. 26 G. and assessed at Rs 414·16 were vested in Government. As regards compensation, 674

claims have been filed and decided. The total amount of compensation awarded was Rs. 1,85,988·38. Out of Rs. 1,85,988·38, Rs. 4,538·38 were paid in cash and Rs. 1,81,450·00 in bonds.

The Bombay Inferior Village Watans Abolition Act, 1958

In the State, there were inferior village servants. There were hereditary village offices of lower degree than that of a revenue or Police Patel or Village Accountant and watans appertaining thereto in the district. These inferior village watans were held hereditarily under the existing watan law for the performance of duties connected with the administration or collection of public revenue of a village or with the village police or with the settlement of boundaries or other matters of civil administration of a village. Such watans included the inferior village hereditary office even where the services originally appertaining to it had ceased to be demanded.

In pursuance of the Government agrarian policy, the Bombay Inferior Village Watans Abolition Act, 1958 abolished all the inferior village watans with their incidents. The watandars were not dispossessed of the land but were made eligible to the regrant of the resumed land, on payment of the occupancy price equal to three times the amount of the full assessment of the land. Thus, the watandars were made occupants within the meaning of the Bombay Land Revenue Code. Occupancy of the land regranted is not transferable or partible by metes and bounds without the previous sanction of the Collector and except on payment of such amount as the Government may determine by general or special orders. It may be pointed out that resumed land held previously by the authorised holder was also to be regranted to him on payment by him to the State Government of the occupancy price equal to three times the amount of full assessment of the such lands. The Act makes provision for application of tenancy law to any watan land lawfully leased.

For abolition of the watan rights, the Act provides for compensation as follows :

(a) Where the full or a portion of the assessment of the watan land was assigned towards the emoluments of the watandars, seven times the amount equal to the difference between the amount of such assessment or portion and the amount of quit-rent (Judi), if any, payable to the State Government by the watandar.

(b) Seven times the amount equal to annual cash allowance or other annual payment of money (not being the rent of land resumed under clause (b) of section 12 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices Act 1874 or a like provision under any existing watan law), made by the State Government to the watandar under the existing watan law.

(c) Three times the cash value of the average of the customary fees or perquisites, in money or in kind levied or leviable by the watandar under the existing watan law during the three years immediately preceding the appointed date.

This Act is made applicable to 110 villages of the district. Before the abolition of these watans, there were 305 tenure-holders. The watans covered an area measuring 3,374 A. 02 G. and assessed at Rs. 6,413·83 The tenure-holders paid Rs. 17·18 as Judi to Government. After the implementation of the Act occupancy rights were conferred on 305 persons in respect of 3,374 A. 02 G. and assessed at Rs. 6,413·83 on payment of occupancy price.

The Gujarat Patel Watans Abolition Act, 1961

There were hereditary patel watans held in the villages. Hereditary Patel-ship meant every village office of a revenue or Police Patel held hereditarily under the existing watan law for the performance of duties connected with the administration or collection of public revenue of a village or with the village police or with the settlement of boundaries or other matters of civil administration of a village. It included such office even where the services originally appertaining to it had ceased to be demanded. Under the system there were revenue and/or Police Patels in villages. Along with the Village Accountant (Talati), he was the village executive to whom Government looked for assistance in the village administration in general and revenue administration in particular.

In order to remove Patel Watans the Gujarat Patel Watans Abolition Act, 1961 was enacted. It came into force on 1st April, 1963. It abolished the patel watans with all their incidents (including the right to hold office and watan property. The right to levy customary fees or perquisites money or kind and the liability to render services). All the watan lands were resumed and subjected to payment of land revenue under the Bombay Land Revenue Code 1879. It declared that in future no office of a patel shall be hereditary.

After resumption of the watan lands, which was a grant of land revenue only, the holder was deemed to be the occupant of the land subject to payment of land revenue to the Government. In the case of authorised holders of watan lands the resumed watan lands were regranted to the authorised holders on payment of occupancy price equal to six times the full assessment of such lands subject to payment of land revenue to Government (section 7). Where any watan land was in possession of an unauthorised holder, he was liable to summary eviction, but such land may be regranted to him if such eviction would cause hardship to him on account of the investment made for development of lands or the non-agri-

cultural use of the land. Such regrant shall be on the terms and conditions determined by the State Government (section 10). Lastly in the residual cases left out after regrant under sections 5, 7 and 10, the lands were regranted to the holders on payment of occupancy price equal to six times the full assessment of land.

For the abolition of all rights in watans compensation is provided in the Act. A watandar is entitled to compensation equal to the aggregate amounts calculated in the manner provided in the following clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d), namely :

(a) seven times the amount of the assessment or portion thereof, where the assessment or a portion of the assessment of the watan land was assigned under the existing watan law towards the emoluments of the watandar,

(b) seven times the amount of the annual cash allowance or other annual payment of money (not being the rent of land under any existing watan law) made by the State Government to the watandar under existing watan law,

(c) seven times the amount of the land revenue paid or payable to the watandar in the year immediately preceding the appointed day; where the watan property consists of a grant of the whole or part of land revenue of any land,

(d) three times the cash value determined in the prescribed manner of the average of the customary fees or perquisites in money or in kind levied or leviable by the watandar under the existing watan law during the three years immediately preceding the appointed day.

The law provides for the payment of compensation. Compensation is payble in cash if the amount does not exceed Rs. 1,000 and (2) if such amount exceeds Rs. 1,000, a sum of Rs. 1,000 shall be payable in cash and the remaining amount shall be payable in transferable bonds which shall carry interest at the rate of three per cent from the date of issue and be repayable in twenty years from the said date by equated annual instalments of principal and interest. The bonds shall be of such denomination and in such form as may be prescribed.

The Act applies to 90 villages of the district. There were 206 watan-holders. The watans covered an area of 1,362 A. 15 G. assessed at Rs. 1,869·59. The tenure-holders paid Rs. 121·60 as Judi to the Government. After abolition of the watans, 218 persons became occupants in respect of area measuring 1,362 A. 15 G. and assessed at Rs. 1,869·59. 214 persons got occupancy rights on payment of occupancy price in respect

of 1,346 A. 39 G. assessed at Rs. 1,845·86. 4 watandars got occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price for an area measuring 8 A. 31 G. and assessed at Rs. 15·55.

So far as compensation is concerned, 121 claims have been filed and decided. The total amount of compensation paid in cash was Rs. 5,060·85.

The Gujarat Surviving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963

The Gujarat Surviving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963 was brought into force with effect from 1st October, 1963. The Act abolished all surviving inams which were not abolished by any of the tenure aboliton laws of the former Saurashtra and Bombay States. The Act is extended to the whole of Gujarat State. It abolishes alienations altogether with incidents thereof and alienated lands have been made liable to the payment of land revenue.

There were 91 villages in which the alienations were surviving. These alienations were of jiwai lands held by the *bhayats* of ex-rulers and other service inamdars.

This Act was made applicable to the district from 1st October, 1963. Before the Act came into force there were 758 tenure holders in 91 villages of the district. This tenure covered an area of 7,512 A. 31 G. assessed at Rs. 7,617·65. The tenure-holders paid no Judi to Government and enjoyed Rs. 7,657·63 as Nuksan. After the abolition of the tenure, 4,119 persons became occupants in respect of 7,512 A. 31 G. assessed at Rs. 7,617·65. All 4,119 persons got occupancy rights in respect of 7,512 A. 31 G. assessed at Rs. 7,617·65 without payment of occupancy price. There were 6 hereditary cash allowances or perpetutity cash grantees, who were paid Rs. 18·14 annually. These allowances were also abolished under the Act. Cash allowances were given to 5 non-hereditary grantees. They were paid Rs. 3,372 annually. The amounts of compensation payable been fixed at Rs. 126·98 in respect of hereditary cash grants and at Rs. 1,016·00 in respect of cash allowances. Under the Act, cash allowances have been continued for 6 widows for life-time.

So far as compensation is concerned 225 claims were filed and decided. The total amount of compensation awarded was Rs. 6,697·95.

The Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969

From time immemorial the rulers of Gujarat like rulers in other parts of India used to make grants of land, land revenue or cash allowances for maintenance of religious and charitable institutions. Such grants were called the Devasthan Inams. They consisted of entire villages or portions

of villages, exemption from land revenue or assignment of land revenue of a village or a portion thereof and allowances in cash or in kind.

In order to abolish these inams held by religious or charitable institutions in the former Bombay area of the State of Gujarat, the Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969 was enacted and brought into force with effect from 15th November, 1969. The Act has a limited application. Firstly, it extends only to the former Bombay area of the State of Gujarat and excludes the Saurashtra districts and the Kutch district from its purview. Secondly, it applies to the Devasthan Inams consisting of lands only and not cash allowances or allowances in kind.

It abolished Devasthan Inams consisting of lands only together with all their incidents, which have been made liable to payment of land revenue. Occupancy rights are granted to (1) the Inamdar, where such land was in his possession and had been cultivated on behalf of the Inamdar, (2) authorised holder or inferior holder, where such land was in possession of an authorised holder or inferior holder and (3) the Inamdar, where such land was in possession of a person other than the Inamdar authorised holder, unauthorised holder or inferior holder.

Where any Devasthan land is in possession of an unauthorised holder, it shall be resumed and an unauthorised holder shall be summarily evicted. If in the opinion of the State Government the eviction of such holder would entail hardship on him in view of the investment made by him in the development of the land or in the non-agricultural use, the State Government may direct the Collector to regrant the land to such holder on payment of such amount and subject to such terms and conditions as the State Government may determine. If such land is not so regranted, it shall be liable to be disposed of under the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879. The lands, which are not so regranted, shall be disposed of under the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code.

All public roads, lanes and paths, the bridges, ditches, dikes and fences, rivers, streams, lakes, wells, tanks, canals and water courses, etc., and all lands excluding land used for buildings and other non-agricultural purposes in respect of which no person is deemed to be an occupant and all mines whether being worked or not and minerals whether discovered or not and all quarries situated within the Devsthan lands have been vested in Government. All rights held by an Inamdar in such properties shall be deemed to have been extinguished and such lands shall be available for disposal by the Collector.

For abolition of the inam rights in Devasthan lands, provision is made for payment of compensation to the Inamdars in the form of perpetual annuity. If the grant consisted of soil with or without exemption from

payment of land revenue, the amount of compensation payable would be an average of the full assessment leviable during a period of three years before the commencement of the Act. If the grant consisted of assignment of land revenue or share in such land revenue, the gratuity shall be equal to an average of the amount or the land revenue or share therein received by the Inamdar during a period of three years before the commencement of the Act. Compensation shall be payable to the Inamdars on application to the Collector.

The Act provides for abolition of (1) the exemption enjoyed by institutions for public religious worship under section 88(B) of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 (2) the exemption which was available to the Devasthan Inams in regard to the provisions available to the landlord in respect of the termination of tenancy and (3) the exemption which was provided for the Devsthan inam land in the Ceiling Act.

In the district in Modasa taluka there was one village called Itadi which was held as Devasthan inam of Ambaji Mataji. Similarly a village called Thumara was also held as Devasthan inam in Himatnagar taluka. In Malpur mahal one village called Bhojpur was also held as Devasthan inam by Mahant of Akhada of Lunawada. Some scattered lands were also held by different religious institutions.

This Act is made applicable to 3 entire villages and 68 scattered lands of the district. Before the abolition of these inams, there were 178 inams holders. This tenure covered an area of 3,345 A. 02 G. assessed at Rs. 2,804·33. The inam holders paid Rs. 148·63 as Judi to Government and enjoyed Rs. 2,665·70 as Nuksan. After the abolition of the Inams, 511 persons became occupants in respect of 2,554 A. 36 G. assessed at Rs. 2,395·78 and 36 persons became occupants on payment of purchase price in respect of 90 A. 21 G. assessed at Rs. 109·29.

The total properties admeasuring 692 A. 36 G. and assessed at Rs. 292·89 were vested in Government. As regards compensation 6 claims amounting to Rs. 1,793·97 are likely to be filed.

The Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1947

Consolidation of Holdings—The excessive sub-divisions of land has been the main impediment to agricultural production. The consolidation of small and scattered holdings is accepted, therefore, as a preliminary step towards formation of co-operative farming. The consolidation programme, therefore, should be not thought of in isolation but in the context of entire land policy of the State. In order to tackle this problem the Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, was enacted in 1947 and

was applied to this district during the period of First Five Year Plan. Under this Act, standard areas have been laid down for this district and all holdings below standard areas are entered in a register with the ultimate object of their being consolidated into economic holdings of standard size. The Act provides for prevention of fragmentation in agricultural holdings and also provides for consolidation of the scattered parcels of lands into compact holdings. The statement given below shows the number of villages covered and also the extent of the progress made under the Act of 1947 in the district.

Sl. No.	Name ot the taluka	Number of villages in which consolidation scheme is applied	Number of villages in which consolidation scheme is enforced
1	2	3	4
1	Modasa	95	93
2	Prantij	69	49
3	Himatnagar	6	3

The main reasons for slow progress in the district are as follows.

1. lack of demand from the people.
2. irrigated areas are also not large and rent is unassured,
3. inadequate and incorrect state of records, and
4. lack of propaganda.

The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960

Ceiling on Land Holdings—The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960 was enacted and enforced with effect from 1st September, 1961. It provides ceilings on existing holdings as well as on furture acquisition. The ceiling is on a person which includes a joint family. No allowance is made for the size of a family. The ceiling area varies according to the class of land. In the case of a dry crop land, ceiling varies from 56 acres to 132 acres, in the case of rice land from 38 acres to 88 acres, in the case of seasonally irrigated land from 38 acres to 88 acres, and in the case of perennially irrigated land from 19 acres to 44 acres. Thus, the ceiling varies from 19 acres to 132 acres according to local areas and classes of land. The level of ceiling on future acquisition is the same as that on existing holdings.

The ceiling areas prescribed for different classes of land are as under :

Ceiling Area

Class of local area	Ceiling area in acres			
	Dry crop land	Rice land	Seasonally irrigated land	Perennially irrigated land
1	2	3	4	5
A	56	38	38	19
B	60	40	40	20
C	72	48	48	24
D	80	54	54	27
E	84	56	56	28
F	96	64	64	32
G	108	72	72	36
H	120	80	80	40
I	132	88	88	44

In Sabarkantha district there are no areas falling in classes A and B. All the villages of Prantij taluka and 48 villages of the Bayad taluka have been included in class C. In 'D' class, all the villages of the Bayad taluka other than those included in local area 'C,' 86 villages of Modasa taluka, 86 villages of Idar taluka, and all villages of Himatnagar taluka have been included. The 34 villages of Khedbrahma taluka, 13 villages of the Vijaynagar mahal, 92 villages of Bhiloda taluka, all villages of the Malpur mahal other than those included in local area 'H,' all villages of the Modasa taluka other than those included in local area 'D', all villages of Idar taluka other than those included in local area 'D', have been included in E class. In F and G classes, no villages have been included. In H class, all villages of Khedbrahma taluka other than those included in local area F, all villages of Vijaynagar mahal other than those included in local area F, all villages of Bhiloda taluka other than those included in local area F, all villages of Meghraj taluka and 52 villages of Malpur mahal have been included. In I class no villages have been included.

About transfer, very stringent provisions have been made. No transfer or partition can be made by a person holding land in excess of the ceiling area after the commencement of the Act. Any transfer or partition made between 15th January, 1959 (the date of the Nagpur Resolution) and 1st September, 1961 (date of commencement) shall be deemed to have been made with a view to defeating the object of the Act

and shall be ignored in computing the surplus land held by the person. The surplus so determined shall be taken in the first instance from the transferor to the extent of land available with him and the balance, if any, shall be taken in the first instance from the transferee to whom transfer was made after 1st September, 1961 and thereafter from the transferee to whom the transfer was made after 15th January, 1959 and before 1st September, 1961. Under the law, the land owners are enjoined to declare the surplus area within the time prescribed. Elaborate provisions are made for computing the surplus lands.

Under the law 815 A. 31 G. have been declared as surplus. Of these lands, possession has been taken of only 293 A. 12 G. Out of the remaining 521 A. 19 G. there are stay orders from the Gujarat Revenue Tribunal and Civil Courts in respect of 334 A. 19 G. In case of the remaining 187 acres, steps are being taken to take possession.

Out of lands admeasuring 293 A. 12 G. taken possession of, only 19 A 36 G. have been distributed among the Harijans in Dadhalia (Modasa taluka). The remaining 273 acres were earmarked for resettlement of persons displaced by the Dharoi project.

Exemptions

The following categories of lands are, however, exempted from the ceiling limits.

(i) Lands held in compact blocks of efficiently managed farms on which heavy investments or permanent structural improvements have been made and the break-up of which will lead to a fall in production.

(ii) lands leased to or held by bodies or persons for growing-fruit trees and used for that purpose for not less than last 3 years.

(iii) lands held or leased by approved land development banks.

(iv) lands held or leased by approved co-operative societies for improvement of economic and social conditions of peasants or for ensuring the full and efficient use of land.

(v) lands leased or held by approved industrial undertaking which in the opinion of which the State Government *bona fide* carries on any industrial operation.

(vi) lands being the property of a public trust for an educational purpose, hospital, *panjrapole*, *gaushala* or an institution for public religious worship the entire income from which is for the purpose of the trust.

The lands in the categories mentioned above will not be taken into account in computing the ceiling area of a person, but if the extent of land held under such categories exceeds the ceiling area, the person will not be permitted to retain other lands.

Tenancy legislation

The tenancy rights in the district are regulated at present under the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948. In the former Bombay State there was no special law regulating the relations between landlords and tenants. The relations between the two were mostly governed by mutual contracts or local usage and customs. The provisions of section 83 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 constituted the tenancy law of the State. With a view to safeguarding the rights of tenants in the Bombay State the first tenancy legislation called the Bombay Tenancy Act, 1939 was enacted. This Act introduced a concept of protected tenant covering those tenants who held land continuously for a period of not less than six years. It gave to the tenants for the first time, fixity of tenure, a ceiling on rentals, rights in house-sites and trees and protection from eviction under certain circumstances. After Independence, this Act of 1939 was replaced by comprehensive legislation in 1948. This Act was amended extensively in 1956. It provided that on the 1st April, 1957 described as the "Tillers' Day", every tenant whether permanent, protected or ordinary, was deemed to have purchased from the landlord the land leased to him subject to the condition that the tenant cultivated the land personally and his total holding did not exceed the ceiling areas and the purchase price did not exceed 200 times the assessment. This Act was also amended from time to time by the Bombay Acts XV and XXXVIII of 1957, LXIII of 1958, Gujarat Acts XVI of 1960 and XXVII of 1961.

The original Tenancy Act of 1948 as amended in 1956 made comprehensive provisions for regulation of rent, security of tenure, transfer of ownership to tenants, imposition of ceilings on existing holdings as well as future acquisition, restrictions on transfers of agricultural land, management of uncultivated lands, etc. Under the law, the maximum rent is not to exceed five times the assessment or Rs. 20 per acre and shall not be less than twice such assessment and where the amount equal to twice the assessment exceeds the sum of twenty rupees per acre, the rent shall be twice the assessment.

As regards security of tenure permanent tenants have been given complete security of tenure. Other tenants are given security subject to landlord's rights to resume lands not exceeding 3 economic holdings (12 to 48 acres) on condition that every tenant retains half the area leased. A small holder is defined as a person who has leased land not exceeding one economic holding and whose total annual income does not exceed Rs. 1,500.

He can resume half the area leased from a tenant in all cases. These were constraints on resumption. The main constraints are that the income by the cultivation of land of which a person is entitled to take possession is the principal source of income for his maintenance and that the land leased stood in his name or any of his ancestors on 1st January, 1952. If a landlord after terminating the tenancy does not cultivate the land personally within one year of resumption or after having commenced such cultivation, discontinues the same within 10 years, the tenant will be entitled to restoration.

Transfer of ownership to permanent tenants was provided to permanent tenants with effect from Tiller's Day, *i. e.*, 1st April, 1957. Other tenants except those of small holders were also deemed to have acquired ownership from that day. As regards tenants of small holders, the law was subsequently amended to provide transfer of ownership to tenants in respect of non-resumable lands with effect from 1st April, 1962. During the course of implementation, it came to the notice of Government that in many cases there were possibilities of the purchases by the tenants becoming ineffective due to the tenants' absence before the tenancy courts and due to their repeated unwillingness to purchase these lands. In such cases their purchases were likely to become ineffective due to non-payment of due instalments of purchase price to the landlord. The State Government has by two important amendments tried to prevent such ineffective purchases. Under one amendment, the tenants who remained absent before the tenancy courts and who expressed unwillingness to purchase the land have been given an opportunity to apply for purchase of the land, if they have not still been disposed of by submitting an application within one year from 29th December, 1965. By another amendment, the State Government had extended the period of paying arrears of instalments by three years more. The Government has, at the same time framed Rules under the Agriculturists Loans Act for advancing tagavi to assist them in paying the arrears amount of the instalment within the extended period of three years. The Tenancy law was almost implemented in the district.

Survey and Settlement

The original survey and settlement operations commenced first in the Bombay Province in the Deccan in 1836 A. D. After the experience gained in the Poona Collectorate, the operations were extended to other districts of the Deccan. In Gujarat, the first annual experimental settlement was introduced in the Dholka taluka of the Ahmedabad district by Mr. Rogers.

The main problems[1] of the original settlement in Gujarat were not essentially different from those in the Deccan. To begin with, since the

1. *Survey and Settlement Manual*, Vol. I, pp. 74 and 75.

lands were not measured in to separate plots by the boundary marks, the intial problem was the type of survey number to be selected and sometimes the system of survey. Secondly, the special system of classification adapted to local conditions had to be worked out. Thirdly, the revenue history of the tract showing the past revenue management had to be ascertained. In the absence of any systematic management and regular records. the data available for the purpose were imperfect and unsatisfactory. In Gujarat, very wide variations in the rates of assessment which were, *inter alia*, based upon castes had to be made to soften the transition from the old to the new system by deliberate departure from the principles of grouping and distribution of assessment, as postulated in the Joint Report. The grouping of villages in the original settlements was therefore of a transitional character. Further, the fixing of the aggregate assessment and the pitch thereof was mostly empirical. So, the first settlement officers adopted trial rates as in Dholka on their ideas of what the district could bear and confirmed them, having regard to the past revenue history, the existing state of cultivation, etc. Actually what they did was to test the rates by the aggregate and the aggregate by the rates until they produced what they considered to be a fair assessment. In the original settlements, attempts were made to conform, as far as possible, to the principles of the Joint Report of 1847 A. D.

Despite these distinct problems, it was not possible to separate entirely the history of the original and revision settlements; because in both the classes of surveys proceedings simultaneously, the technical improvements made in methods of measurements of classification were adopted equally in both.

Before examining the position of Survey and Settlement in the district it would be appropriate to examine the territorial composition of the district as that would greatly facilitate the proper understanding of the problem.

The district comprises 8 talukas and 2 mahals of which 2 talukas are of the Union Area of the State of Bombay and the remaining 6 talukas and 2 mahals are of former Idar, Ambaliara, Mohanpur, Ransasan. Vijaynagar, Malpur. Dadhalia, Likhi and other small States and Agency villages.

The Union Areas

In the Union Area, there is no change in the position that obtained before 1947, in respect of survey and settlement. The lands of each individual holding in this area have been surveyed and designated as survey numbers and their sub-divisions as pot hissas, pot numbers or hissa numbers. Their areas are worked out separately and recorded. The soils of

these survey numbers and sub-divisions are classified for the purpose of land revenue according to the Gujarat Classification System and land revenue settlement has been introduced under the Bombay Land Revenue Code. 1879. The original settlements were made in Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal of the district by Captain Prescott in 1861-62 and the same were revised in the year 1892-1893. The second revision settlement of Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal of Ahmedabad district states :

"The Khalsa villages of Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal were originally settled on survey principles in 1861-62. The first revision settlement of the 72 khalsa villages of the taluka and 41 khalsa villages of the mahal was sanctioned under Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 3064 of 6th May, 1892".[1]

The talukdari and mehvasi villages were surveyed in 1873 and the results were embodied in a memorandum by Mr. Beyts in 1878 but no settlement was made. The detailed survey of the 46 talukdari and mehvasi villages was mostly carried out in 1908 and completed in 1911 and the maximum rates for these villages were sanctioned by Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 2225 of 4th March, 1911. The Jama levied in the talukdari and mehvasi villages was not based on assessment but was levied according to the proposals contained in Mr. Robertson's report of 1903. The original survey and settlement of the inami village of Itadi was sanctioned by Government Order, Revenue Department No. 9327 of 27th September, 1916 and the original survey settlement of the inami village of Hafsabad sanctioned by the Commissioner, Northern Division, in his order No. S. R. V. -46 of 13th October, 1916. In both the villages the rates were guaranteed for the period ending with expiry of the revision settlement of Modasa mahal.[2] The Second Revision Settlement was introduced in the year 1927-28 and though the guarantee period of 30 years has already expired the same has not yet been revised.

MERGED AREAS

The Idar State

In the Idar State, the original survey and settlement was carried out by Mr. Hall in 1868 A. D. The system of the revenue survey and assessment was similar to that in vogue in the British districts of Gujarat. The Annual Administration Reports published by the Idar State give some idea of the progress of the survey and settlement operations. By 1906-7. 225 villages in the State were surveyed and settlement papers were prepared for 2

1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. CCLXI-New Series.

2. *Second Revision Settlement of Prantij Taluka and Modasa Mahal of Ahmedabad District*, (1926-27), p. 1.

villages.[1] The number increased to 255 in 1908-09 and slowly and gradually every year, few *khalsa* villages were surveyed. The settlement work was also in progress in the Idar State. This is evident from the *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State* for the year 1915-16 which states, "the work of classification was completed in the villages of the Pal patta".[2] The work of revision settlement was also progressing side by side where the original settlement period had expired long before and where it consequently was over-due.[3] The Alienation Enquiry Report of the Idar State states, "in the Idar State, the original survey and settlement was carried out by Mr. Hall in 1868". The revision settlement was carried out in the first decade of the present century. The *khalsa* villages of the Idar State have all been surveyed and settled. Moreover out of the remaining villages some jagiri villages were surveyed and settled when they were under the Agency Administration.[4]

The Report gives interesting details about the rates of assessment in the surveyed and settled villages. In the surveyed and settled villages, the *jirayat* rate was Re. 1 to Rs. 2/8. The *bagayat* kas which varied from Rs. 3 to Rs. 7 had been separately shown in the Kayam Kharda of the villages. In the unsurveyed jagiri villages, the *Vaje* or *kaltar* system obtained. In Shamalaji, Nankhi, Bhawanpur, Jodhpurna Chappra (hamlet of Bhiloda), villages of Bhiloda taluka, however, the plough-tax at Rs. 8 was levied. The plough-tax was for the area of land, which could be cultivated by one plough.

In some villages of the Khedbrahma taluka, *uddhad vero* for kharif crops was recovered at the rate of Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per house (hut) from the Adivasis only. It was recorded in the following villages :

Poshina jagir (62 villages).

Kheroj jagir (9 villages).

Khalsa villages like Khedwa, Dharol, Bedhia, Padhara, Basol, Bhutia, Vekaria, Dhundhagam, Digthsali, Zanwa, Ponai, Chikhli, Dholi, Vikharan, Chada, Chhapran, Kanthapara, etc.

For the rabi and summer crops, *kaltar* and *bijwa* were recovered. *Bijwa* was a peculiar expression and meant crop-share equal to a certain proportion of the seeds sown by the cultivators, say 2 or 2½ times the quantity of seeds sown by a cultivator.

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1. *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State*, 1906-07.
2. *Ibid.*, 1915-16.
3. *Ibid.*, 1931-32.
4. *Report of the Alienation Enquiry Officer, by* Dr. G. D. Patel, *on Idar State*, 1951.

One significant fact about the cultivators of the State was that they were occupants ; whether they were in Bhumia, Sardar Patawat, bhayati, inami, seshani, or *khalsa* villages and paid only *vighoti* or *Vaje* to the State or jagirdars. There were no tenants in the villages of the State but they were all khatedars.

The fundamental fact about the State lands was that they were on old tenure even in villages of the Adivasis. These lands could be sold, mortgaged, leased or otherwise alienated by the cultivators. The conception of the new and impartible tenure was foreign to this tract before the application of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 in 1948.

Villages of other States

As regards the villages of other States wholesale or partial survey, as was necessary, and classification have been carried out under the Merged State Area Survey and Classification Scheme. No area in this district now remains unsurveyed and unclassified.

In the Merged State Areas, the land revenue settlement is considered unscientific. In order to bring the land revenue assessment rates on par with those obtaining in the pre-merger talukas of the district, Government framed Land Revenue Rule 19-N. For fixing the land revenue assessment in areas which are neither settled nor scientifically settled on lines similar to the Bombay Land Revenue Code. Land Revenue Rule 19-O was framed. Both the above Rules were framed under section 52 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code. The Land Revenue Rule 19-N applies to the merged territories and only provides for continuing the prevailing rates of assessment until the settlement of land revenue is fixed under Chapter VIII-A of the Land Revenue Code or the rates of assessment are fixed under section 52 of the Code, whichever event occurs earlier. It also provides for reduction of the existing rates, if they are found to be higher than the Union area rates after scaling them down by 25 per cent. Thus, the main objective of Rule 19-N is the continuance of the existing rates of assessment and necessary reduction therein by way of remission for removal of inequalities in the pitches of assessment.

Under the Land Revenue Rule 19-O, groups of the villages of the merged areas were formed on consideration of their homogeneity in respect of permanent and semi-permanent factors mentioned above, and the comparable Union Areas of these villages fixed under Land Revenue Rule 19-N and land revenue assessment in such areas were worked out by application of (1) the recoverable rates worked out under Land Revenue Rule 19-N, or (2) the existing rates prevailing in the merged areas or (3) the rates worked out on the basis of average cash value of 35 per cent or ⅙th of the gross produce, whichever was the lowest, to the soil classification

values through the medium of the distance from village site scale and the actual area of the survey number or its sub-division. In these areas, there were several villages held on Jagiri tenure. The Jagiri tenure has been abolished under the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagir Abolition) Act, 1953, and the assessment of each individual survey number or sub-division has been fixed under section 7 of the said Act by applying the rate of the adjoining homogeneous *khalsa* village.

Under the Gujarat Classification System, lands irrigated from wells are treated as dry crops lands with an additional classification factor or sub-soil so as to levy higher land revenue assessment on consideration of the capacity of the wells and the soil classification value.

Lands irrigated from 2nd Class and 1st Class Irrigation works which are in charge of Public Works Department are subjected to separate irrigation cess, and irrigation rates under the Bombay Irrigation Act, but lands irrigated from smaller works like tanks which are not governed by the Bombay Irrigation Act are subjected to *Himayat* assessment which is clubed with the land revenue. Occasional use of water for agricultural purposes with permission and from Government resources where Government have not spent anything is allowed free and where Government have spent something, water assessment is levied under section 55 of Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

The Revenue Department is the oldest and the best known department to the general public. The Collector of the district is the head of the department. Besides revenue administration, the department administers other branches of Government for which a separate department is not considered necessary. For example, the department administers the Court of Wards Act, the Stamp Act, the National Savings Schemes, etc. Till recently, it administered the Money lenders Act. Although there is the Registration Department under the Director of Land Records, the Collector functions as the District Registrar. Although there is a separate Land Records Department the work of the city survey is looked after by the Collector and the Mamlatdar works as City Survey Officer. Although the jails are under the control of the Inspector General of Prisons, the work of sub-jails is supervised by the District Magistrate. Thus, the department carries out different works for other departments for which they do not have the necessary staff in the districts. Further, whenever any new scheme or legislation is to be enforced, Government entrusts the work to this department on account of its well-trained and extensive staff. The services of the department are also requisitioned for all types of elections, census and civil supply. In short, the services of the department are required whenever the people in bulk have to be dealt with or information is to be collected for which no separate Government machinery exists.

The main functions of the department are collection of the land revenue, maintenance of law and order, development and co-ordination of the activities of other departments. These cover settlement and administration of land revenue, maintenance of land records, enforcement of land reforms, acquisition and requisition of property, excise duty, territorial changes, wakfs, administration of certain taxes, entertainment taxes, education cess, and collection of arrears of revenues of other departments in the district.

After introduction of the Panchayati Raj in April, 1963, many of the revenue duties, particularly functions regarding developmental programmes and collection of land revenue have been transferred to the Panchayati Raj institutions. Still the revenue duties of maintaining law and order, maintenance of land records, settlement of land revenue, civil supply and co-ordination of the activities of other departments in the district continue with the Revenue Department.

The hierarchy of the revenue official under the Collector consists of the Prant Officer of the Deputy Collector in charge of a sub-division, and the Mamlatdar in charge of a taluka assisted by Avalkarkuns, Circle Inspectors and Talatis functioning at lower level. The collection of land revenue has been entrusted to the gram/nagar panchayats. The Taluka Development Officer is vested with all the powers of a Mamlatdar in the matter of revenue collection. The Circle-Inspectors are placed under his direct control and also responsible for the work of the Talati-*cum*-Mantri who looks after collection of revenue and maintenance of village records.

There are 60 Circle Inspectors in the district of whom 27 work under the Collector and 33 under the District Development Officer. In matters relating to maintenance and repairs of boundary marks and crop inspection, their work is also supervised by the District Inspector of Land Records.

FUNCTIONS OF THE LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

In 1884, when the original survey and settlement operations in the Bombay State were completed the old Survey and Settlement Department was closed and the Land Records Department was created as an adjunct to the Revenue Department. The Land Records Department is now a separate department of Gujarat State and is an adjunct to the Revenue Department. At the State level, the department is headed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records. For administrative purposes the State is divided into circles each in charge of a Superintendent of Land Records, who has under him Inspectors of Land Records functioning at the district level.

The functions of the Department of Survey and Settlement are (1) to maintain all survey, classification and settlement records up-to-date by keeping careful notes of all changes, and for this purpose to carry out field

operations preliminary to incorporation of the changes in the survey records, (2) to collect and provide statistics necessary for the sound administration of all matters connected with land, (3) to help reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in revenue and civil courts by providing reliable survey and other records, (4) to supervise the prepartion and maintenance of Records of Rights and, of the periodical inspection of boundary marks, (5) to conduct periodical revision and settlement operations, (6) to organise and carry out village-site and city surveys on an extensive scale and arrange for their proper maintenance, (7) to undertake special surveys for private individuals and public bodies, surveys in connection with railways, municipal and local projects, town planning schemes, and survey for the Defence and other Government departments, (8) to maintain upto date village, taluka and district maps, reprint them and arrange for their distribution to various Government departments for administrative purpose and sale to the public, and (9) to train revenue officers in survey and settlement matters.

The District Inspector of Land Records, Sabarkantha is the principal officer in charge of the Land Records Department in the district. He is a gazetted officer (of a Mamlatdar's rank) appointed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, Ahmedabad and is directly subordinate to the Superintendent of Land Records, Ahmedabad Circle, Ahmedabad in all technical matters. He is also subordinate to the Collector of Sabarkantha and has to carry out all administrative orders of the Collector in the matter of survey and land records. He is assisted by one Headquarter Assistant, one Deputy Surveyor, five taluka Surveyors, two Land Acquisition Surveyors, one Record Keeper, one Deputy Record Keeper, and one Account Clerk.

Record of Rights—The Record of Rights has been introduced in the villages of the district. After survey, the Land Records Department supplies the *mapni* or survey register and map to the revenue officials for compilation of Record of Rights. Section 135 B (1) of the Land Revenue Code provides that the Record of Rights should contain the following particulars.

(a) names of all persons who are holders, occupants, owners, or mortgagees of the land or assignees of the land or assignees of the rent or revenue thereof: (b) the nature and extent of the respective interests of such persons and conditions or liabilities attached thereto: (c) rent or revenue, if any payable by or to any such persons, and (d) such other particulars as the State Government may prescribe under the Land Revenue Rules.

The State Government has now applied these provisions to all tenancies by notification under Section 135 B (2) of the Code, whereunder any acquisition of rights to land is to be reported to the village officer within 3 months by the person acquiring it, unless the right is acquired under a registered document.

City and Village Site Surveys

The city survey was first introduced in Prantij and Modasa towns of the district in 1921 and 1922 respectively. The arrangement for the maintenance work of both the towns was made during the British regime. For the maintenance work of both the towns, only one Surveyor was appointed. The Surveyor stayed for one month at Modasa and for another at Prantij. After the formation of the Sabarkantha district, the city survey was introduced in Himatnagar in 1961, in Idar in 1965 and in Talod in 1967. The maintenance work of Himatnagar has begun since 1967 and that of Idar and Talod from 1968 onwards. After the maintenance work of Talod had begun, Modasa and Prantij were separated and one Surveyor for Modasa was appointed. Similarily, one Maintenance Surveyor was also appointed for Prantij and Talod. The Maintenance Surveyor of Prantij and Talod has to execute his duties in the following manner. From 1st to 21st of the month he has to stay at Prantij and from 22nd onwards till the last day of the month his duties are confined to Talod. The Maintenance Surveyor of Modasa and Idar has to perform his work in the following manner. From 1st to 20th of the month, he has to do the work of city survey and from 21st till the last day of the month he looks after the work pertaining to boundary marks allotted to him by the District Inspector of Land Records. It may, however, be noted that he is headquartered at Himatnagar and as the work pertaining to the city survey is heavy, he is allotted duties regarding maintenance only. No other extra work is assigned to him. Thus, it would be observed that city survey of 5 towns has been done in the district so far.

So far as village site survey is concerned the village site survey of Shamalaji in the Bhiloda taluka was completed in the year 1970-71.

Special Staff

In addition to the normal set up of the department, there is a special staff for Pot Hissa survey in the district. The staff comprises one Nimtandar and 8 Pot Hissa Surveyors. They all work under the District Inspector of Land Records. Moreover, in addition to the work mentioned above in the district, a revision survey of the Indran village (Bayad taluka) has been taken on hand. For this purpose one Nimtandar and 4 Theodolite Surveyors have been appointed. After the completion of the survey, one Nimtandar and 10 Surveyors will do plane-table work and thereafter the classification work will also be undertaken. The staff mentioned above will work under the District Inspector of Land Records.

Village Maps

Village maps are drawn for all the surveyed villages showing survey numbers, their boundary marks and other topographical details such as

roads, rivers, nullahs, forests, hills, from the detailed tippans of individual survey numbers. They are generally drawn on scale of 1"=20 chains= one furlong or 201·17 meters. From these village maps, taluka and district maps are constructed on a scale of 1"=2 miles. A district map requires revision due to territorial changes and development work such as construction of new roads, canals, railways, hospitals, bundhas, dams, etc., undertaken under various plan schemes.

Income from Land Revenue

Land revenue is one of the stable sources of income in the district. The following statement shows the demand, collection, remission and suspension of land revenue for the years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69.

The statement shows an increase in original demand in 1967-68 as compared to the year 1966-67. However, in 1968-69 there was a decline in gross consolidated original demand. The reason for decrease was mainly due to cancellation of grant of non-agricultural land, cancellation of grant of Government waste land and discontinuance of *eksali* bases. The decrease is also noticed in respect of percentage of collection both in the years 1966-67 and 1968-69. The decrease is attributed to the scarcity conditions prevailing during both the years in the district.

STATEMENT XI·1

Land Revenue Demand, Collection, etc, (1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69)

Item	1966–67	1967–68	1968–69
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1 Demand			
(a) current	24,62,027.21	26,04,416.86	25,67,696.28
(b) arears	20,21,149.02	24,06,488.79	20,61,006.16
Total	44,83,176.23	51,00,905.65	46,28,702.44
2 Collection	20,52,390.27	30,25,241.78	14,56,773.94
3 Remission	23,627.63	14,657.71	18,728.05
4 Suspension	12,06,999.53	11,73,485.96	21,37,818.67
5 Percentage of Collection ..	45.78	59.30	31.47

Source :
The District Development Officer, Sabarkantha District.

Local Fund Cess

The cess is levied under section 93 of the Bombay District Local Boards Act, 1923. It was formerly collected by the Revenue Department along with land revenue. But after the implementation of the Gujarat Panchayats Act. 1961 it is collected by the village panchayats, as the functions of collecting land revenue and local fund cess have been transferred to the panchayats. The cess which was first levied at the rate of 20 paise in every rupee of land revenue is now levied at the enhanced rate of 50 paise from 1st July, 1966. The amount realised by way of local fund cess in the district was Rs. 13,27,460·19 in 1969-70.

In the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, a provision has been made for levy of an additional cess. At the request of the gram and nagar panchayats, the State Government may levy an additional cess upto 25 paise on every rupee of land revenue payable to Government in the area within the jurisdiction of such panchayat. If such panchayat undertakes for the benefit of the community any special work or project which is to be completed within a specified period and for which additional funds are needed, it may pass a resolution at its meeting and after obtaining previous permission of the District Panchayat, apply to the State Government to increase rate upto 100 per cent in the land revenue payable to the State Government as ordinary land revenue.

Irrigation Cess

The irrigation cess is an annual charge payable by every land-owner of cultivable area under command of a canal system. The cess is a fixed charge per acre and is not liable to variation from year to year. This charge was made leviable on old irrigation works with effect from 13th February, 1954 while in the case of new irrigation works, it was decided to make the cess payable after 3 years from the commencement of the irrigation. It was found that farmers did not utilise the full irrigation potential. In order to pressurise recalcitrant cultivators to use irrigation facilities, with effect from 13th February, 1963 compulsory irrigation cess at the rate of Rs. 2·50 per acre per annum is being levied on all lands within the command of irrigation work, irrespective of the fact whether irrigation water is used or not in accordance with the provisions of the Bombay Irrigation Cess Act, 1879. This compulsory levy is primarily meant to cover the working expenses of the canal system.

In the Sabarkantha district, as against the total demand of Rs. 10,579·21, Rs. 671·23 were realised for the year 1967-68.

Education Cess

After the formation of the separate State of Gujarat for promotion of education, a surcharge on agricultural and non-agricultural lands was

levied by enacting the Gujarat Education Cess Act, 1962. The Act came into force from 1st August, 1962. An Education Cess Fund has been created out of the receipts from (1) the surcharge on all lands, agricultural and non-agricultural assessed to land revenue and (2) tax on lands and buildings in urban areas. A surcharge of 20 per cent is levied with effect from 1st August, 1962 on agricultural lands which are assessed or held for the purpose of agriculture and not used any purpose of agriculture. A surcharge varying from 12½ per cent to 75 per cent of non-agricultural assessment is levied an all unalienated lands subject to non-agricultural assessment and on all alienated lands (excluding village sites) used for purposes other than agriculture. These rates have been brought into force from 1st August, 1962.

In urban areas, the lands and buildings are liable to rates of tax which vary from 2½ per cent to 4½ per cent of the annual letting value of the property. These rates have come into force from 1st October, 1956.

The surcharge levied on agricultural as well as non-agricultural lands is transferred at the end of the year to the State Education Cess Fund and utilised for schemes for promotion of education in the State. During 1963-64, Government had directed that one-third of the tax collected on lands and buildings within the municipal areas should be given to the Municipalities as grant with effect from 1st August, 1962 the date from which the tax has been levied. Against a total demand of Rs. 317,058·06 a sum of Rs. 223,114·79 was collected in 1968-69.

The Bhoodan Movement

In order to reduce inequalities in the distribution of lands, legislative measures for abolition of intermediaries, tenancy reforms and land ceilings have been adopted by the State Government. These measures have not helped solve the problem of landless labourers. In this contex, the contribution of the Bhoodan Movement as one of the schemes of land distribution to the landless has got a special significance. Secondly, this movement is a reminder that the land problem cannot be solved by legislation alone. Thirdly, the Bhoodan Movement aims at abolition of the concept of private ownership. The fundamental principle of the movement is that all land belongs to God (*Sab Bhumi Gopal Ki*) and the man is only a trustee of the land which should be treated as a social agent of production for the entire community.

This movement, which started in 1951 in Telengana region of the former Hyderabad State (Now in Andhra Pradesh), spread during the walking tours undertaken by Shri Vinobaji.

Distribution of Donated Lands

Since the distribution of the donated lands is vital to the success of the movement, it is necessary to know the main rules for the land distribution, which are stated below.

(1) The date on which the land is to be distributed is announced by beat of drum or leaflets in the village.

(2) The revenue officers from the Talati to the Collector upwards and the village panchayat members attend the function.

(3) As far as possible, one-third of the land is given to the Harijans.

(4) As far as practicable, the land is given to the landless, the excess land if any may be distributed amongst the landless persons of the adjacent villages. Such lands are to be given to persons who are capable and willing to cultivate land personally.

(5) For a family of 5 persons, 1 acre of irrigated land or 2½ acres of dry land should be granted. Under special circumstances, land exceeding 5 acres may also be given.

(6) Attempts should be made to consolidate the scattered lands into compact block. If small parcel of land cannot be given for cultivation, they may be assigned for manure pits, public latrines, etc.

(7) The lands which are cultivable, should be liable to payment of land revenue to Government from the day of grant.

(8) If such lands remain uncultivated for a period of 2 years, it will be open to Government to grant them to other landless persons.

(9) Three years limit is fixed for making cultivable virgin lands, waste lands or khar lands, so donated.

These are the main principles of distribution in respect of lands received in the Bhoodan.

From 1953-54 to 1964-65, 2,128 A. 32 G. of lands were received from 292 donors and were distributed among landless labourers with a condition that the land should be cultivated personally.

Rural Wages

The rural wage structure in the district is complex. The rates and levels of wages vary according to the different agricultural operations.

The wages are different for men and women. Children are also employed in agriculture and are paid low wages. Moreover, they vary according as the season is busy or slack. In the district, a large number of persons have no land of their own but are dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood. They are labourers who are employed to work on the field either casually during the harvesting season or throughout the year as an annual worker. According to the 1961 Census, 3,10,353 persons were returned as cultivators and 28,640 as agricultural labourers. The main communities, who work as agricultural labourers in the district are Thakardas and Harijans, Garassias and Adivasis.

Generally one or two male farm labourers are employed according to the need of the landholder as annual workers and they are given cash wages which vary from Rs. 300 to Rs. 600 per year. In addition to cash wage, they are given food, tea, tobacco, clothes, shoes, etc. Sometimes residential accommodation is also provided.

Some landholders of Khedbrahma and Idar talukas give 30 kg. grains, one kg. oil, one kg. *gur* and five kg. *dal* per month. At other places, farm labourers are given ⅓rd, ¼th or 1/5th portion of main agricultural products.

Casual Labour

The casual employment is common in the district. Most of the landholders employ casual labourers only when there is a rush of work on the farm and pay them on daily wages. Agricultural operations such as ploughing which entail more strenuous labour command a higher wage rate. While much of the heavy work is done by men, women and children are also employed in such work as weeding, winnowing, watering, etc. Casual labourers work from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. with a break of about two hours at noon for lunch. The main source of labour is the village itself. Sometimes during harvesting periods, labourers from surrounding villages are also called to meet the local shortage. During agricultural season, artisans and small cultivators who usually do not find enough employment on their farms offer themselves for work as labourers during the peak period.

These casual labourers are paid Rs. 2·50 to Rs. 3 per male, Rs. 1·50 to Rs. 2 per female and Re. 1·00 per child per day. Sometimes instead of cash payment they are given 2·5 kg. grain. The male workers who are employed in ploughing and carting are given Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 in addition to meals, tea and *bidi* or tobacco for smoking. The current rates in the district vary according to the demand and supply of labour and proximity of place from the towns. The statement given below indicates the comparative rates of wages for the different types of operations in the district for the years 1948-49, 1960-61 and 1968-69.

STATEMENT XI-2

Wages of Agricultural Operations (for Males) in the Sabarkantha District 1948-49, 1960-61 and 1967-68

(IN RS.)

Sl. No.	Nature of operation	1948-49	1960-61	1967-68
1	2	3	4	5
1	Ploughing, harrowing, carting, etc.	0 75 to 2	1.50 to 4	2 to 5
2	Harvesting of crops	0.75 to 2	1.50 to 2	2 to 3
3	Threshing out grains	0.75 to 2	1.50 to 2	2 to 3
4	Other miscellaneous works ..	1.50	1.75 to 4	2 to 4

Source :
District Agricultural Officer, Sabarkantha, Himatnagar.

From the statement, it is observed that as compared to year 1948-49 when the wage rate for ploughing, carting, etc., varied from 75 paise to Rs. 2 the wage rate in 1967-68 ranged between Rs. 2 to Rs. 5. In respect of hravesting of crops and threshing out grains, the wage rate varied between 75 paise to Rs. 2 in 1948-49 and between Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 in 1967-68. In 1960-61, the wage rate varied between Rs. 1·50 to Rs. 2 for both the items. The wage rate for the other miscellaneous works was Rs. 1·50 in 1948-49. It varied between Rs. 1·75 to Rs. 4 in 1960-61 and Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 in 1967-68.

Registration of Documents

Under section 17 of the Indian Registration Act (XVI of 1908). the registration of instruments of immovable property is compulsory. These documents are divided into four categories, *viz.*,

1. instruments of gift of immovable property,

2. other non-testamentary instruments, which purport or operate to create, declare. assign, limit or extinguish any right, title or interest of the value of Rs. 100 or upwards to or in immovable property and receipt or payment of any consideration of such documents,

3. leases of immovable property from year to year or for any term exceeding one year or receiving an yearly rent, and

4. non-testamentary instruments transferring or assigning any decrees, order of a court or any award when such decree or order or award purports or operates to create, declare, assign, limit or extinguish any right, title or interest of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards to or in immovable property.

There are certain documents, however, the registration of which is optional under section 18 of the Act. These are documents of immovable property valued at less than Rs. 100, leases exempted under section 17, wills, notices of pending suits or proceedings referred to in section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act, and all other documents not required to be registered under section 17. As a rule, fees are levied for the registration of all documents, but the State Government has exempted co-operative societies registered under the Gujarat Co-operative Socities Act, 1961 from the payment of such fees. Certain types of societies enjoy restricted exemption in respect of certain documents involving consideration upto a prescribed limit, registration fees being charged on documents with higher consideration.

Registry Offices

There are four Sub-Registries in the district, *viz.*, (1) Himatnagar, (2) Modasa, (3) Idar and (4) Prantij. For the convenience of the public, the Sub-Registrar of Idar pays visit to the out station at Khedbrahma for two days from second Monday to the following Tuesday in each of the months of January, March to June and October. He also pays visit to Bhiloda for two days from the third Monday to the following Tuesday in each of the months of January, March to June and October.

The Sub-Registrar of Modasa pays visit to the out-station at Bayad for two days from the second Monday to the following Tuesday during the months of January to June. The Sub-Registrar of Prantij pays visit to Talod for two days, namely, on first and third Saturdays in each of the months of January to June and October to December.

District Registrar

The Collector, Sabarkantha is the *ex-officio* District Registrar. He exercises powers of supervision and inspection over the entire registration staff in the district. Though the Sub-Registrars are appointed by the Inspector General of Registration, the District Registrar has powers to fill in the temporary vacancies. He hears appeals and applications preferred to him under sections 72 and 73 of the Indian Registration Act (XIV of 1908) against refusals to register documents by the Sub-Registrars under him. Under sections 25 and 34 of the same Act, he is empowered to condone delays in presentation of documents and appearance of executants provided the delay does not exceed four months and directs such documents to be registered on payment of a fine not exceeding ten times the proper registration fee. He is also competent to order refund in case of surcharges and to grant full or partial remission of safe custody fees in suitable cases. Under section 42 of the Act, a will or codicil may be deposited in a sealed cover and it may be got registered at the cost

of the party desiring it after the depositor's death. He is also authorised to record and register births and deaths under the Births, Deaths and Marriage Registration Act (VI of 1886).

The Sub-Registrar

The main functions of the Sub-Registrar are to register documents, keep a record of all documents registered and to send to officers concerned extracts from documents affecting immovable property in respect of which a rocard of rights is maintained. Every Sub-Registrar is an *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar for the registration of births and deaths. He is also an *ex-officio* Registrar under the Parsee Marriage and Divorce, Act, 1936. The Sub-Registrar is working as Marriage Officer for the district and is vested with the powers of solemnising and registering marriages under the Special Marriage Act, 1954.

The Headquarters Sub-Registrar, Himatnagar assists the Collector in adjudication of documents impounded under section 33 of the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958 (IX of 1958) and also in the adjudication of cases under section 31 of the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958.

In the year 1969-70, the annual income of the Registration Department in the district was Rs. 64,084 and the annual expenditure was Rs. 35,218 except Prantij sub-Registry where photo-copying is in existence, the copying of documents is done by hand at Himatnagar, Modasa and Idar. Out of 8,995 documents registered in the district, 7,974 documents falling under compulsory registration were of the aggregate value of Rs. 2,43,83,000 and 1,021 documents falling under optional registration were of the aggregate value of Rs. 1,95,973, 44 documents affecting movable property were of the aggregate value of 48,000 and 45 were wills. Thus the total number of documents registered in the district was 9,084.

STAMPS

The Superintendent of Stamps, Ahmedabad is the authority controlling the supply and sale of non-postal stamps. In the Sabarkantha district, the Collector as the administrative head of the district is in charge of the entire work relating to the stamps. He has to regulate the sale of stamps and ensure collection of stamp duties. As there is no treasurer in the treasury, the work of sale of stamps to vendors and to the public is done by a Stamps Senior Clerk under the direct supervision of the Treasury Officer. He is in charge of the local depot at Himatnagar and is responsible for the maintenance of the stock of stamps, their distribution to the branch depots in the district and sale to the public. Refund of the value of unused, spoiled and obsolete stamps is not within the competence of the Treasury Officer, as these powers are not delegated to him, after the separation of the

Treasury from the Revenue Department. These powers are exercised by the Collector, Deputy Collector, Mamlatdars and Mahalkaries. A branch depot is located at every taluka headquarters and is in charge of a Sub-Treasury Officer. The branch depots at Himatnagar, Idar, Modasa and Prantij receive the stock of stamps from the Controller of Stamps, Nasik. The stamps to other branch depots are being supplied from the district. As per Government Notification No. GHM/M/STP/1068/54035-H, dated 13th January, 1969, all the Sub-Treasury Officers have been appointed as "Proper Officers" for the purpose of the Act and under the Rule 9 of the Bombay Stamp Rules, 1939, they are empowered to affix the special adhesive stamps on the unexecuted documents presented for stamping by the public.

For the convenience of the public, stamps are sold not only at the district depot and branch depots but also at various others centres by licensed Stamp Vendors, who are appointed by the Collector. There are 18 Stamp Vendors in the district. The non-judicial stamps in the case of instruments requiring stamp duty of the value of above Rs. 500 and the Court-fee stamps exceeding Rs. 150 are sold directly by the Treasury and Sub-Treasuries to the public. Stamps below these denominations are sold by the authorised vendors. The Sub-Treasury Officers act as *ex-officio* Stamp Vendors at taluka places by virtue of their posts. From 29th April, 1971, non-judicial stamps upto Rs. 500 are sold by the Stamp Vendors. The total income realised from the sale of stamps in the district in the year 1969-70 was Rs. 7,90,161·55 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 1,72,932·65 for judicial stamps, Rs. 40,761·65 for revenue stamps, and Rs. 1,16,221·55 for special adhesive stamps. The vendors were allowed a small discount which in the year 1969-70 amounted to Rs. 12,007·37 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 1,092·54 for judicial stamps.

OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

In order to meet the growing expenditure on developmental activities, the State and Central Governments have to augument their financial resources by tapping additional sources of revenue. Other sources are Income-Tax, Taxes on Motor Vehicles, State excise, Central excise, etc. These are briefly examined below.

SALES TAX

As a source of revenue, sales tax occupies a distinct position in tax-structure. It is not only productive from the point of view of revenue but has an additional merit of flexibility. By changing the coverage and rates of tax, the yield can be adjusted to the revenue needs of the State.

Since different systems of sales tax operated in the constituent units of the former composite State of Bombay, the Bombay Government

appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Babubhai J. Patel to evolve a uniform system of sales tax for the entire State. On the basis of its recommendations, the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1959 was enacted and enforced with effect from 1st January, 1960. After bifurcation of the Bombay State this Act of 1959 was adopted by the Gujarat State. The Bombay Sales Tax Act was applied to the Sabarkantha district on 1st January, 1960 and remained in force till 5th May, 1970. In order to rationalise the tax-structure and stream-line the administrative procedures, the Government of Gujarat constituted in 1967 the Sales Tax Enquiry Committee with Shri M. M. Odedra as chairman. Its terms of reference were to examine the existing system of the sales tax, to review its working and to make recommendations for rationalisation of the structure of the sales tax, and simplification of procedures. In making recommendations, the Committee was asked to take in to account the revenue requirements of the State and to suggest measures for dealing with avoidance and evasion of tax. On 28th June, 1968 this Committee submitted its report to Government. Its main recommendation related to the provision of a single-point tax. On the basis of these recommendations a Sales Tax Bill was introduced and passed in the Assembly in 1969. The enactment was called the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 and was made applicable to the entire State with effect from 6th May, 1970. The salient features of the law are (i) that a single point levy is combined with a double point levy; (ii) that a levy of retail sales tax is abolished and (iii) that exemption from the tax is granted to small manufacturers and traders of special category with an annual turnover of Rs. 30,000. It is hoped that these provisions will greatly benefit the traders.

The total collection of sales tax in the Sabarkantha district for the year 1969-70 amounted to Rs. 51,76,262.

TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES

Tax on motor vehicles constitutes one of the important sources of State revenues. The Motor Vehicles Department is responsible for the proper administration of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and Rules made thereunder. It also collects taxes in motor vehicles and passengers and goods carried by roads under (1) the Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958 (2) the Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958 and (3) the Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962. It also performs in general the duties and responsibilities enjoined on it under the provisions of these Acts and Rules made thereunder.

Administrative Set-up

The Department is headed by the Director of Transport with headquarters at Ahmedabad. From October, 1963, the State has been

divided into three regions, *viz.*, Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot, each of them being headed by a Regional Transport Officer. The district of Sabarkantha has been placed under the administrative control of the Regional Transport Officer, Ahmedabad Range which covers Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Gandhinagar and Sabarkantha districts. Separate figures of revenue for the Sabarkantha district are not available. The net collections of revenue for the districts of Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Sabarkantha for the year 1968-69 were as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Amount in Rs.
1	2	3
1	Bombay Motor Vehicles Act, 1958	92,40,787·50
2	Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958	37,793·65
3	Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939	8,53,216·42
4	Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962 ..	13,69,857·75
	Total	1,15,01,655·32

STATE EXCISE

The main functions of Prohibition and Excise Department are to administer the following Acts and to organise education and propaganda for prohibition.

1. the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949,

2. the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936,

3. the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930,

4. the Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959,

5. the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955, and

6. the Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce Control) Act, 1955.

Besides, it has to collect licence fees, dues on excisable articles, medicinal and toilet preparations. Thus, its functions relate to administration of laws, enforcement of control under those Acts, and propaganda and education under the prohibition laws.

The department is headed by the Director of Prohibition and Excise with headquaters at Ahmedabad. There is under him at the district level a District Inspector of Prohibition and Excise with headquaters at Himatnagar. He works under the supervision and control of the Collector. He has under him a Sub-Inspector at Prantij.

The State Government levies excise duty on the following commodities under section 105 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

1. any alcoholic preparation for human consumption,
2. any intoxicating drug and hemp,
3. opium,
4. any other excisable articles as defined in clause (13) of the section 2 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

In addition to the above articles, excise duty on medicinal and toilet preparation containing alcohol, opium and narcotics is levied under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 by the Central Government but collected by the Prohibition and Excise Department of the State and retained by the State Government.

Excise duty on various alcoholic preparations yielded a total revenue of Rs. 2,182 in 1968-69.

CENTRAL EXCISE

The Sabarkantha district is placed under the Superintendent of Central Excise, Vijapur Range. Under him there are two out-sectors, *viz.*, Himatnagar and Modasa. Each out-sector is under the control of an Inspector. Modasa sector consists of four talukas, *viz.*, Modasa, Bayad, Malpur and Meghraj, and Himatnagar sector consists of four talukas and one mahal, *viz.*, Himatnagar, Idar, Khedbrahma, Bhiloda talukas and Vijaynagar mahal.

The Central Excise Department deals with excise duties mainly levied on tobacco, chinaware, porcelainware, steel furniture, sodium silicate, cotton yarn and iron and steel products.

Such duties yielded a total annual revenue of Rs. 1,06,214 in the year 1967-68.

INCOME-TAX

This is one of the most important Central taxes. For the Gujarat State, there is a Commissioner of Income-Tax headquartered at Ahmedabad. Under him, there are Inspecting Assistant Commissioners of

Income-Tax. The Sabarkantha district is placed in charge of the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner Income Tax, AR. II Ahmedabad, under whom there are three Income-tax Officers stationed at Ahmedabad.

Details of the number of assessees and realisation of tax revenue in the district for the years 1960-61 to 1969-70 are given below.

Year	Under Rs. 5,000		Over Rs. 5,000		Total No. of assessees	Total amount of tax (Rs. in thousand)
	Number of assessees	Amount of tax (Rs. in thousand)	Number of assessees	Amount of tax (Rs. in thousand)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1960-61	1,191	..	895	..	2,086	..
1961-62	1,250	753	940	923	2,190	1,676
1962-63	1,375	702	1,034	927	2,409	1,629
1963-64	1,465	830	1,085	1,436	2,550	2,266
1964-65	1,665	893	1,123	1,258	2,788	2,151
1965-66	1,792	1,202	1,197	1,330	2,989	2,532
1966-67	1,817	1,725	1,323	1,407	3,140	3,132
1967-68	2,368	1,674	1,535	1,488	3,903	3,162
1968-69	3,434	2,659	1,758	1,503	5,192	4,162
1969-70	3,504	2,533	2,195	1,589	5,699	4,122

Source :
Income-tax Officer, Circle III, Ahmedabad.

From the above statement it is observed that there is a progressive increase in the number of assessees and the amount of income-tax realised The increase in the number of assessees is due to the lowering of the minimum slab of income not taxable. The increase in collection of tax from 1965-66 onwards is due to increase in income-tax rates and the developmental activities under the Second and Third Five Year Plans. The tax collection had shown declining trends in the years 1962-63 1964-65 and 1969-70.

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Police

INTRODUCTORY (HISTORICAL BACKGROUND)

According to the Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government (1855), there was no organised police force in the Mahi Kantha Agency areas.

" The country is without any Police force, as the Chiefs are bound by their engagements to repress offences within their respective districts, or be responsible for them. The only means at their disposal, barring a few Seebundee employed by the principal Talookas, is the enforcement of village responsibility, through the system which has generally obtained throughout the province of tracking the foot-marks from one village to another ; the village unable to carry them on, is held responsible to afford restitution, or to find out the offenders by other means. "[1]

Thus police control in the Mahi Kantha, surrounded by the territories of the native Chiefs, and with its north and east wild and hilly was very imperfect except in Bhil and Koli villages which had only the headman, *gameti*, who was bound to report offences. The system of village watch, *chaukidars*, obtained throughout the province. The Koli *chaukidars* traced the foot-steps of thieves so successfully that stolen property was sometimes found after the tracks had been followed through several jurisdictions. Even if the stolen property was not found the village into whose limits the foot-steps were traced was held responsible and forced to compensate the loss, *valtar*. When the tracks could not be satisfactorily traced, endeavours were made to discover the offences, by offering rewards, *morkhai*, secretly to any one who gave information.[2]

In 1820, an agreement was signed by the British Government with the States in the Mahi Kantha Agency, which was created in 1820. Peace was generally established thereafter.[3] For the purpose of assisting the Agency in keeping the peace and tranquillity of the country, and preventing internal disputes amongst the Chiefs, a body of the Gaekwar Contingent was

1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, 1855, No. XII-NS. pp. 19-20.
2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 390.
3. MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. I, 1922, pp. 52-53.

stationed at Sadra. From this place, detachments were deployed in various Thanas over the province.[1] Each sub-division, taluka, had a Police Inspector and each village a Police Patel, who had under him a certain number of village watchmen.[2]

The police arrangements in the Mahi Kantha were thus not satisfactory. The Darbars were the weakest, the population was especially troublesome, the country was hilly, the land was generally inferior and the State revenue less, and these were the tracts where Koli villages were situated. Everywhere there was a great want of a regular police with some training. The talukdars were much assisted by Gaekwad horse which patrolled all over the territory. If the population was predatory, they were not sufficiently energetic to do much towards checking it and were apt with some reason to consider that this was hardly their business and confined themselves to preventing breaches of the peace.[3]

The Gaekwar's Contingent moved from village to village and gave information about commission of crime immediately to the Police Inspector of the taluka, who proceeded at once to make inquiries.

In 1882-83, the Bhil corps was organised. "The troublesome *deshi* Bhils had been enrolled by the plan of having a special Police Officer and 20 mounted constables to prevent crime and to hunt down offenders, regardless of jurisdiction, which was necessary amongst small and much intermixed States."[4] In 1885-86 the Gaekwar's Contingent was disbanded and a regular mounted and foot police were entertained in their place from the subsidy paid by the Baroda Darbar.[5] In 1887-88, in pursuance of the general Police schemes, all Sardars and Bhumias were directed to arrange for patrolling and safeguarding of main roads passing through their estates and the maintenance of the Police posts in notably dangerous localities. The Revenue Officer and the District Magistrate were relieved of their police work during the year.[6]

In 1889-90, the strength of the Agency Police remained unaltered but there was decrease in the State's police. There was a marked decrease in crime and stolen property. The Agency Police commenced work as regular police from 1st January, 1890.[7]

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1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, 1855, No. XII-NS., p. 20.
2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 390.
3. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha*, 1881-82, p. 10.
4. *Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency*, 1882-83, p. 91.
5. MANEKLAL FRAMROZ SORABJI, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. I, 1922, p. 54.
6. *Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency*, 1887-88.
7. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha*, 1889-90.

In 1893-94, a new post of the Commissioner of Police for the Agency was created.[1]

" The frontier police also was composed of inferior material, indigenous Musalmans and other inferior castes. These should be replaced by Makhranis, Rajputs and Mungias, for the last of whom the Bhils had a superstitious dread believing that their ghosts haunt their enemies. "[2]

In the Mahi Kantha area, there was no regularly paid village police. The Police Patels in the Thana circles were appointed by the Divisional Officers concerned who made appointments of these persons in consultation with the Superintendent of Agency Police, subject to the approval of the Political Agent. The duties of Police Patels were generally performed by the Revenue Patels and those of the watchmen by men directly appointed by the village community, who remunerated these men either in cash or in land.[3]

Border Court

The system of extradition did not obtain fully between the Agency and the neighbouring States of Rajputana. Consequently cases arising between the States and Thana circles of the Mahi Kantha on the one hand and the States of Mewar, Dungarpur of the Rajputana on the other, were disposed of by the Border Court, composed of the Political Officers on either side.[4]

Mahi Kantha Agency Police

An agreement was signed by the Government of India and the Baroda Darbar in September, 1881 whereunder the duties hitherto performed by the Gaekwar's Contingent were to be performed by a body of mounted and foot police styled the Agency Police, entirely under the control and management of the British Government. In the execution of this agreement, the Gaekwar's Contingent serving in the Agency of Mahi Kantha was withdrawn.[5] There were two types of Police force in the Mahi Kantha Agency: (1) the Agency Police and (2) States' Police.[6] The Agency Police was placed under the control of the Assistant Political Agent and *ex-officio* Superintendent of Police. The duties of the Agency Police extended not only to the area comprised in the Thana circles but also those talukas which were too poor to maintain their own police.[7]

1. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha*, 1893-94.
2. *Ibid.*, 1891-92, p.18.
3. MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. 1, 1922, pp. 64-65.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 64.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 64.
6. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha*, 1892-93.
7. *Op. cit.*, p. 65.

The Agency Police was assimilated in many ways with the District Police. The law under which they functioned was not passed by the Legislative Assembly but the law applied to foreign territory by the Executive Government and their authority was derived from the paramount powers of the British Government and from its engagements with foreign States beyond the frontiers of the British India. The post of Deputy Superintendent of Police for the Agency was created in the year 1907. The strength of the Police force in 1922 was : Deputy Superintendent of Police 1, Inspectors of Police 2, Sub-Inspectors 9, Head Constables 60, and Constables 209, Foot Police 340 and Mounted Police 52. The Agency Police was distributed to perform duties in the police thana and other posts in the respective areas under the Agency.[1]

IDAR STATE

The only State in the entire Mahi Kantha Agency areas to maintain regular police was the Class I State of Idar which was continued almost till its merger in the Bombay Province in 1948.

The State had an extensive frontier which was exposed to the raids by Bhils living in the State as also in the neighbouring areas. The village system of police was supplemented by posts of stipendiary Police in 1872-73. There were 39 Police Stations, at 19 of which the Police were under the management of Thandars or Subordinate Magistrates.[2] In 1877-78, the regular police force consisted of 30 horse and 410 foot. The *Annual Administration Report* for the year 1880-81 mentions that the State Police made remarkable progress in bringing offenders to book. In 1885-86, the strength of the State Police was raised to 79 mounted and 725 foot police. A company of 149 sepoys was also maintained by the State. "The Idar State from its position is obliged to keep up a large force..................but among its Sardars and Bhumias, there is no attempt at anything in the shape of police organisation and as the holdings of these petty chieftains lie on the frontier, this is a very serious defect and demands a remedy. Scheme is under consideration for having a general police force organised for the whole State including Sardars and Bhumias Pattas...........".[3]

By 1892-93, the police force in the State had following categories : Body Guard 28, Garrison 111, Artillery 13, Cavalry Sowars 22, Band 19, Foot Police 613 and Mounted Police 25. In 1896-97 the State Police force was placed under the charge of the Superintendent of Police.[4]

1. MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. I, 1922, pp. 67-70.
2. *Annual Administration Report of Mahi Kantha*, 1872-73.
3. *Ibid.*, 1885-86.
4. *Ibid.*, 1892-93 and 1896-97.

In 1900-01, the military force of the State was amalgamated with the police force on account of troubles with the Dungri Bhils living in the State and in the neighbouring territories. There were the Inspectors of Police, Chief Constables, Jamadars, Havaldars, Naiks, Daffedars, Horse and Camel Sowars and First and Second class Constables under the charge of the Superintendent of Police. In 1902-03, the military did not exist as a separate entity as it was amalgamated with the police in the previous year. The strength of the mounted police was increased in the year because of the successful pursuit made by it of the Bhil offenders on the frontier. The police force was supervised by the Military Secretary to the Maharaja. There were two types of police force in the State, *viz.*, the State Police and the police force in the territories of subordinate Jagirdars which comprised only foot and mounted police. Besides regular police, there were 631 village *chokiats* and 197 police Patels in the State in 1906. Of these, 612 *chokiats* and 44 patels enjoyed Barkhali lands, while the remaining *chokiats* and patels received cash remuneration. In 1907, the Idar Imperial Service Scouts Unit was formed. It comprised Risaldar 1, Jamadar 1, Trumpeter 1, Lance Naiks 4 and Sowars 20. In this year, the Police Department was reorganised and the posts of the Police Superintendent and his assistant were abolished and instead, posts of 3 Supervisors and 6 Subedars were created and the work of supervision was divided among them. The number of Fauzdars' circles was raised to 12 with the result that every two of these circles formed the district of a Subedar, and every two Subedars' districts came under one Supervisor. The mounted police force remained under the direct supervision of Jamadar and generally remained at the capital but was sent out into other parts in the case of emergency.

Taking both the regular and village police together, the whole strength came to 1,424 in 1907. In 1916-17, the State police force consisted of 18 officers, 117 infantry and 371 other foot police making a total of 505, those in the Pattas of the subordinate Sardars numbered 16 Fauzdars, 38 Sowars and 199 foot There were 550 police patels and 641 *chokiats* and the total strength of both regular and village police was 1,950 in 1916-17. The strength of the police force was either decreased or increased, having regard to the law and order situation in the State. For example, the total strength of police force both regular and village police was 1,915 in 1920-21 and 1,710 in 1921-22. In 1924-25, the question of the reorganisation of the State force was considered by the State in consultation with the Assistant Military Adviser, Gujarat Circle. Accordingly, the Idar State had infantry consisting of 2 platoons of 150 men and was styled Sir Pratap Infantry. They were armed with rifles and were maintained as B-class troops. In 1931-32, its strength was raised upto 4 platoons. The police force consisted of 2 distinct police, the stipendiary and the village police. The latter comprised *mukhis* and *chokiats*, who were under the control of the State Police Department. The State was divided into 2 divisions and each division was in charge of an Inspector who had under him 11 Sub-Inspectors. They remained in

charge of police stations, the number of which depended on local conditions. A Head Constable was placed in charge of each outpost and had a certain number of villages under him. The Head Constables attached to each outpost were responsible for the watch and ward of the villages comprised in the outpost. In 1933-34, the sanctioned strength of regular police force in the State was 468 and consisted of Superintendent of Police 1, Police Inspectors 2, Police Sub-Inspectors 12, Head Constables 91 and Constables 362.[1]

POLO (VIJAYNAGAR)

The Second Class State of Polo had no village police but the regular police consisted of 10 *sowars* and 42 police.[2]

MALPUR

It was a Third Class Taluka ranking first in that class. The State maintained no local force, but maintained a police force of 14 *sowars* and 35 foot police.[3]

MOHANPUR

There was no military force in the State. The strength of the police force was 29 and comprised State Fouzdar 1, Naib Fouzdar 1, Head Constables 2, Constables 21 and 4 *sowars*. Of these, 6 were mounted and 21 were foot police. It was assisted by men of village police and Sath who enjoyed grant of lands and villages from the State. The village Police also received supplementary payment from the village people. The village police and *chokidars* played a considerable part in prevention and detection of crimes. Ordinarily, every village had a Revenue Patel who was also a Police Patel.[4]

Functions of the Police

The primary functions of the police are the prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of law and order, apprehension of offenders, escorting and guarding of prisoners, protecting Government treasuries and private and public property and prosecution of criminals. They have, however, certain other duties to perform, such as inspection of shops selling explosives and poisonous drugs, extinguishing fires, giving aid to displaced persons and pilgrims, verification of character and passports. These functions are

1. *Annual Administration Reports of the Idar State*, 1900-01, 1902-03, 1903-04 1904-05, 1906, 1907, 1916-17, 1924-25, 1925-26, 1931-32 and 1933-34.
2. MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. 1, 1922, p. 149.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 162.
4. *Annual Administration Report of the Mohanpur State*, 1940-[illegible] pp. 3-9 .

incorporated in the Bombay Police Act, 1951, as adapted and applied to the Gujarat State.

Incidence of Crime

The following statement shows the incidence of crime committed in the district between the years 1967 and 1969. It will appear that the crime-graph has fallen from 2,264 in 1967 to 2,179 in 1969. Among the crimes, those committed under the special and other local laws have registered an increase from 1,352 to 1,506 during the period. It is, however, remarkable that not a single offence was reported in the following categories ; (i) against the State, (ii) army and navy, (iii) false evidence, (iv) weights and measures, (v) religion, (vi) unnatural offence, (vii) criminal misappropriation, (viii) stolen property, (ix) fraudulent deeds, (x) documents, trade or property marks, (xi) breach of contract, (xii) marriage, and (xiii) defamation during the period under review.

STATEMENT XII·1

Incidence of Crime

Sl. No.	Description of offence	Number of offences	
		1967	1969
1	2	3	4
1	Against the State		..
2	Relating to the army and navy	.	
3	Public tranquillity	2	2
4	Relating to public servant	1	..
5	Contempt of the lawful authority of public servant	4	1
6	False evidence		..
7	Relating to coins	1	..
8	Relating to Government stamps	1	-
9	Relating to weights and measures	.	..
10	Affecting the public health, safety, convenience, decency and morals	67	52
11	Relating to religion		.
12	Affecting life	68	69
13	Causing of miscarriage, etc.	3	5
14	Hurt	142	134
15	Wrongful restraint and confinement	11	9

STATEMENT XII·1—*concld.*

Sl. No. 1	Description of offence 2	Number of offences 1967 3	1969 4
16	Criminal force	16	25
17	Kidnapping	7	4
18	Rape	2	3
19	Unnatural offence	..	..
20	Theft	250	177
21	Extortion	1	..
22	Robbery	7	4
23	Criminal misappropriation	..	..
24	Breach of trust	31	23
25	Stolen property	..	..
26	Cheating	12	13
27	Fraudulent deeds, etc.	..	..
28	Mischief	36	32
29	Criminal trespass	230	100
30	Offence relating to documents, trade or property marks	..	..
31	Breach of contract	..	..
32	Offences relating to marriage	..	..
33	Defamation	..	..
34	Criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance	18	20
35	Under Special and other local laws	1,352	1,506
	Total	2,264	2,179

Police Administration

Gujarat State

For the purpose of administration, Gujarat State has been divided into two Police Ranges, Baroda and Rajkot, each under a Deputy Inspector General of Police. The Sabarkantha district has been placed in the Police Range, Baroda. The District Magistrate has control over the District Superintendent of Police and the Police force of the district. He decides the questions of policy and matters relating to the administration of law

within the district, but does not interfere with such matters as recruitment, internal economy and organisation of the district force. The District Superintendent of Police is the executive head of the police force in the district. His primary duties are to keep the force under his control properly trained, efficient and contented and to ensure by constant supervision that the prevention, investigation and detection of crime in the district are properly and efficiently dealt with by the police force.

At the district headquarters, the District Superintendent of Police is assisted by an Inspector who is termed Home Inspector and works as his Personal Assistant. He supervises the work of the office at the headquarters during the former's absence. In bigger districts, there are Inspectors for the Local Crime Branch and the Local Intelligence Branch. In the Sabarkantha district, there is an officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, each for the Local Crime Branch and the Local Intelligence Branch. Each district is divided into a number of Police Stations, in charge of Sub-Inspectors of Police, who have under them Head Constables and Constables.

Police Divisions

The district is divided into Himatnagar and Modasa police subdivisions with headquarters respectively at Himatnagar and Modasa, each in charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. He is responsible for all crime work within his subdivision and carries out general orders of the District Superintendent of Police. He is also responsible for the efficiency and discipline of the officers and men in his subdivision. He carries out detailed inspections of police stations and outposts in his charge at regular intervals. Each subdivision has one or more Inspectors, who are employed for crime work and supervision of bad characters and gangs in their circles. They also supervise and co-ordinate the crime work of different police stations within their circles.

In addition to the police headquarters at Himatnagar, there are in all 17 police stations and 30 outposts in the district, as shown below.

Police Stations and Outposts

Sl. No.	Taluka / Mahal	Police Stations	Outposts
1	2	3	4
1	Himatnagar ..	.. Himatnagar	(i) Dol (ii) Rupal (iii) Raigadh
2	Prantij ..	.. Prantij Talod	(i) Harsol (i) Mohanpur
3	Bayad ..	.. Bayad	(i) Sathamba (ii) Gabat (iii) Demai

Police Stations and Outposts—concld.

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Police Stations	Outposts
1	2	3	4
4	Bayad ..	.. Ambaliara	(i) Ramas
5	Idar ..	.. Idar	(i) Badoli
6	,, ..	.. Jadar	(i) Madhava (ii) Chitroda
7	,, ..	.. Vadali	(i) Musar (ii) Choriwad
8	Khedbrahma	.. Khedbrahma	(i) Kheroj (ii) Khedava
9	,, ..	.. Poshina	(i) Anjani (ii) Kotda
10	Vijaynagar ..	.. Vijaynagar	(i) Pal (ii) Kalvan
11	Bhiloda ..	.. Bhiloda	(i) Torda (ii) Punasan
12	,, ..	.. Shamlaji	..
13	Modasa ..	.. Modasa	(i) Dadhaliya (ii) Sarodi (iii) Tintoi
14	,, ..	.. Dhansura	(i) Vadgam
15	Malpur ..	.. Malpur	(i) Magodi (ii) Ambalia
16	Meghraj ..	. Meghraj	(i) Isari (ii) Undava

The sanctioned strength of police officers and men in the year 1969 was 994, distributed as under : District Superintendent of Police 1 ; Deputy Superintendents of Police 2 ; Police Inspectors 3 ; Police Prosecutors 4 ; Police Sub-Inspectors 30 ; Unarmed Head Constables (including 4 women Head Constables) 138 ; Unarmed Police Constables (including 12 women Police Constables) 347 ; armed Police Head Constables 91 ; and armed Police Constables 378. The ratio of the police to area and population shows that there was one policeman to 7 sq. kms., and 1,000 persons in the year 1969-70.

Railway Police

The control and administration of the Railway Police is vested in the Superintendent of Police, Western Railway, Baroda, who has a parallel organisation on the lines of the District Superintendent of Police. He

functions under the supervision and control of the State Deputy Inspector General of Police and the Inspector General of Police.

Anti-corruption and Prohibition

With a view to eradicating the evil of corruption, the Anti-Corruption Force has been set-up under the Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau, Ahmedabad. Every district has at least one Sub-Inspector of Police from this force.

Housing—621 Policemen and 22 Police Sub-Inspectors are provided with Government accomodation for residential purposes.

Welfare of Police—Various facilities and amenities provided at police headquarters, Himatnagar, for the welfare of police include : (1) mess and canteen services, (2) recreation room where newspapers, books and periodicals are kept, (3) sewing class conducted from Police Welfare Fund, where sewing, embroidery, knitting, etc., are taught to the womenfolk of the police force, (4) a pre-primary school for the children of policemen, (5) one 16 mm. cinema projector for showing film shows, (6) one radio and record player in the recreation room, (7) a small dispensary at the police headquarters for immediate treatment, (8) facility of police vehicles to the families of policemen in emergency, and (9) games like volley-ball, hockey, etc., for recreation.

Kotwal Scheme

The Kotwal scheme has been adopted since May, 1962. Kotwal is a Government servant appointed at the village by the Mamlatdar for performing duties prescribed from time to time by Government or by any officer authorised by Government in this behalf. The number of kotwals to be appointed in each village is determined by the Collector in accordance with the scale and rules prescribed. After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, they work under the Panchayat. The appointment of a kotwal is for the period upto the 1st April, following the date of appointment. Though it is purely temporary, it is renewed from year to year so long as the holder of the post continues to be fit to hold it. However, his service does not qualify him for leave, gratuity or pension. In February every year, the *Talati*-cum-*Mantri* of the village submits a report on the work of the kotwal to the Mamlatdar in the form prescribed. He sends the original direct to the Mamlatdar and forwards the duplicate to him through the Sub-Inspector of Police. A kotwal is required to give security of Rs. 100 and furnish two sureties in the prescribed form, as he has to handle Government money. The Revenue Patel or the Revenue and Police Patel, if there be no Revenue Patel, is primarily responsible for the general supervision and control over the work of the kotwal of his village.

Village Police

Under the Bombay Village Police Act, 1867, the control over the village police is vested in the District Magistrate, who may delegate any of his powers to the District Superintendent of Police. Each village generally has a Police Patel, who is required to collect information regarding suspicious characters and send them to the police station. He has to keep a strict watch over the movement of notorious characters under surveillance of the police and to give all the information he possesses about what is happening in the village when the patrolling policemen visit the village.

Home Guards

Home Guards organisation in this district was started in 1950 and functions under the Commandant, Home Guards, who had under him 4 units. At present the Commandant, Home Guards, Himatnagar, has under him 13 units located at Himatnagar, Jadar, Idar, Vadali, Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar, Bhiloda, Meghraj, Malpur, Bayad, Modasa, Talod and Prantij.

Home Guards cadets are imparted training in squad drill, *lathi* drill, arms drill, weapon training, use of rifle and bayonet, mob and traffic control, etc., for the maintenance of law and order. They are given training in civil defence subjects, fire fighting, rescue, first aid to the injured and transport and communication services in times of emergency. When called on duty, they enjoy the same powers and protection as those of the members of the police force. They are mobilised when there are serious outbreaks of riots or general strike. They assist the police in keeping the situation under control.

Gram Rakshak Dal

Another organisation established by the Government for the protection of rural areas is the Gram Rakshak Dal. It is a body of men primarily organised for the defence of villages against dacoits, other anti-social elements, protection of person and safety and security of public property in a village. The District Superintendent of Police is the appointing authority and every member of the Dal is invested with powers, privileges and protection of a police officer, when called on duty. The members of the Dal are imparted training in elementary squad drill, *lathi* drill, physical exercises, arms drill, use of rifle, organising *naka bandis* in villages, combating of dacoits and robbers and first aid to the injured by the Police Head Constables appointed specially for this purpose. In this district, the villages where Gram Rakshak Dals were organised numbered 1,258 and had membership of 28,460 at the end of the year 1969. Of these, 1,199 were Naiks and 723 were Up-Naiks. Members of the

Dal are recommended for arms licences in deserving cases, and are paid Rs. 2·50 per day as duty allowance when called on duty.

Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal

A similar organisation for women was started in the wake of the Pakistani aggression in 1965. The objective of organising this separate wing is to inculcate a spirit of defence among women and induce them to take part in protecting life and property in the village. During such emergencies as flood, fire, earthquakes, etc., they are required to give first aid to the injured and prepare food for the affected. Help in saving women from the clutches of anti-social elements is one of the main features of the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal. Any woman, between the ages of 18 and 50 possessing good health, character and educated upto fourth standard, is eligible for recruitment. The District Superintendent of Police is the appointing author'ty in which work he is assisted by the Honorary Women Organisers of the district. Members are trained in elementary drill, use of rifle and cane, elementary knowledge of law, first aid to the injured, collection of intelligence about anti-social elements and freeing harassed people from the clutches of such persons. In this district the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal had 574 members at the end of year 1969.

Jails

ORGANISATION

All the prisons in the Gujarat State are established under the Prisons Act, 1894. The Inspector General of Prisons, Ahmedabad, is the head of the Jail Department. He exercises, subject to the orders of the State Government, general control and superintendence over all prisons, jails and the headquarter sub-jails in the State. The Jail Department functions under the administrative control of the Home Department.

There is a sub-jail at Himatnagar called the headquarter sub-jail and nine judicial lock-ups in the district at Idar, Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar, Modasa, Bayad, Prantij, Meghraj, Bhiloda and Malpur, under the control of the respective Taluka Magistrate, who is designated the Superintendent of the lock-up and a clerk from his office works as the jailor.

The sub-jail at Himatnagar is looked after by a Jailor-*cum*-Superintendent grade II. He is assisted by one Junior clerk, one Naik and two jail guards, who are responsible for the management of the sub-jail.

The total number of convicts and undertrials in the sub-jail during the year 1970 was 462, of whom 19 were women prisoners.

No jail offences were reported in this sub-jail during the years 1969 and 1970.

PRISON DISCIPLINE

Prison life is well organised, and any breach of prison discipline is dealt with seriously. Those who are found guilty are awarded various types of punishments, *viz.*, (i) cut in remission, (ii) separate confinement, (iii) stoppage of canteen facilities, etc.

After Independence, the jail administration has undergone considerable change. Previously the stress was laid on breaking the personality of the prisoners by giving them inhuman task of grinding, inflicting such punishments as whipping, and putting them in iron chains, and employing them on non-productive work. Such treatment broke the morale of even able-bodied prisoners. After Independence, such inhuman treatment has been stopped and prisoners are now provided with productive work and trained in various crafts like textiles, carpentry, manufacture of chalksticks and spinning on the *ambar charkha,* mainly with a view to enabling them to earn their livelihood, when released. A small factory for the manufacture of cot-tapes is established in the sub-jail. The jail owns a plot of land where vegetables are grown, which are utilised for prisoners.

WELFARE OF PRISONERS

Though jails are considered penal institutions, the policy of Government towards prisoners is not retribution or revenge but reformation and rehabilitation of those men and women who find themselves in jails for a variety of reasons. Whatever may be the cause of the prisoner's entry into jails, the Jail Administration tries to equip him with such training as will enable him to settle down as honest, decent and useful citizen of the community after his release. Various reforms have been introduced in jails, which generally are (i) remission of sentence for good behaviour, (ii) grant of furlough and parole, (iii) adult literacy classes, (iv) supply of newspapers. (v) training in various crafts, (vi) permission to prosecute studies, (vii) canteen facilities, and (viii) cultural activities in the form of *bhajans*, songs, sports competitions, etc.

The Panchayat system is introduced in the jail to implement the activities undertaken for the welfare of prisoners. The members of the Panchayat are elected. It functions in a democratic way under the supervision of the Jail Administration and helps to maintain good discipline in the jail as also in building up the moral character of the inmates.

The Sadvichar Samiti, Ahmedabad, takes an active interest for prisoner's welfare. Every year the Samiti organises the "Raksha Bandhan" programme on Shravan Sud 15 in the jails in the State.

JUVENILES AND BEGGARS

Organisation

Measures for the welfare of the juveniles and adult offenders in this district have been undertaken under the provisions of the two special Acts, (1) the Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938 and (2) the Bombay Children Act, 1948. The activities are carried on under the direct control and supervision of the State Directorate of Social Defence, with headquarters at Ahmedabad.

THE BOMBAY PROBATION OF OFFENDERS ACT, 1938

This Act is in force in the district since 1965. Under this Act, adolescent young offenders are given an opportunity to reform themselves in their homely environment. A Chief Officer is appointed to implement the provisions of the Act. He conducts pre-sentence inquiries and submits reports to the Juveniles Court. He supervises adult offenders below 25 years placed under his supervision by the Courts and assists them to re-adjust and rehabilitate in the society.

Remand Home, Prantij

A Remand Home for boys was started at Prantij by the Government in 1965 to implement the provisions of the Bombay Children Act, 1948. It provides training in craft and literacy to inmates detained in the Remand Home, till their cases are finally decided by the Juveniles Court. Children detained in this institution are given shelter and care, medical treatment, free boarding, clothing and training in finger skill, crafts and liberal education. Those requiring correctional treatment are committed to different certified schools in the State, whereas some are committed to the Remand Home itself pending vacancy in the certified schools. This institution is a place of safety as well as a diagnostic and remedial centre. It has been recognised as a Fit Person institution under Sec. 25 (2) of the Bombay Children Act, 1948. It has been staffed as under.

(1)	Probation Officer-*cum*-Superintendent	1
(2)	Literacy-*cum*-Craft Teacher	1
(3)	Guards	2
(4)	Cook	1

Judiciary

INTRODUCTION

The system of judicial administration as it exists today in the district has passed through various stages. Firstly, the territory of the former Mahi

Kantha Agency was interspersed with that of Gaikwad, the British and the princely States. The existence of large tribal population and common frontier with the former Rajputana States were the source of constant trouble to the maintenance of law and order in the area. There were constant border disputes among the States in the Mahi Kantha as also with those on the other side of the border with the neighbouring Rajputana States of Sirohi and Mewad. Dacoities and murders, very often in broad day-light, were frequent. There was no rule of law, and administrative confusion prevailed in the territory. As the Gaikwad was collecting tribute from the Chiefs of Mahi Kantha, he maintained a police force designated the "Gaikwar's Contingent", for maintaining law and order. But this force was of little help for preventing disorder. No other State in the territory had its own police force.

After the arrival of the British on the political scene, they put down anarchy with a firm hand. Slowly and gradually, British laws were applied and the Chiefs were obliged to abide by the Treaty concluded by them with the British. The Mahi Kantha Agency under the charge of the Political Agent was created in 1820. A strong police detachment designated the 'Agency Police' was organised for the Agency areas. The Agency Courts and the Courts in the States were organised and the powers of each Chief were defined. The Political Agent exercised general supervision over these Courts.

The system of judiciary evolved by the British towards the close of the 19th century continued, with slight modifications, till Independence. After the merger of the princely States of the Mahi Kantha Agency into the Indian Union, a uniform judicial system obtaining in the former Bombay State was gradually introduced. An attempt has, therefore, been made in the following paragraphs to give a historical account of the judicial administration in the district.

Historical Background[1]

Peace was generally established in the country when all the Mahi Kantha Chiefs signed a treaty in 1820. Col. Ballantyne, who was appointed the first Political Agent of the Mahi Kantha, tried to achieve restoration of peace and tranquillity, collection of arrears due to the Gaekwad with full security for future regular payment of tribute, and the settlement of the Idar's territory. The Chiefs were also bound over to observe the following articles : (i) to abstain from plundering and to surrender

1. (i) Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *'Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), pp. 388-90.

   (ii) Framroz Soradji Master, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, (1922), pp. 52-57, 60-[illegible]

   (iii) *Annual Administration Reports of the Bombay Presidency Relating to Mahi Kantha.*

the plunderers, (ii) to abstain from private war, to refer all disputes to arbitration, and (iii) to protect the passage of merchants. But on account of financial burden, the Mahi Kantha, Rajpipla and Panchmahals Agencies were amalgamated in 1828 with the Baroda Residency. However, deterioration in law and order in this territory rendered it necessary to revive the Mahi Kantha Agency in 1836.

In 1838, the Border Panchayats were established by Sir James Outram to settle blood feuds and disputes between the wild Bhils on the Mahi Kantha and Rajputana frontiers. The practice of money compensation was found to be effective in preventing reprisals and maintaining peace. The Border Courts Rules were revised in 1873 and 1877. The Joint Court of the Political Agents of Mahi Kantha and Rajputana met every year on the border to settle the disputes.

In 1839, a Court of Criminal Justice for the trial of all serious offences through the Agency of the Political Agent with three Chiefs as assessors was introduced in the Mahi Kantha. The establishment of this tribunal had a most wholesome effect on all classes and proved a powerful deterrent to commission of crime. Before the opening of this court, owing to the facility of evading justice, the indifference and in some cases, the want of power of the Chiefs, crime was committed with impunity. Government prohibited outlawry and proclamations were issued throughout the province making the offence penal, and subjecting the party offending to severe punishment. Besides the Political Agent, who was vested with the powers both of a Sessions Judge and District Magistrate, and two Assistant Political Agents, who were first class magistrates, one magistrate of the second class and forty of the third class were appointed. Of the Chiefs, two had criminal powers of the second class, three of the third class, eight of the fourth class, nine of the fifth class and two of the sixth class.

In 1855, the administration of justice, except cases of murder and man slaughter, was in hands of the petty Chieftains. Civil disputes were usually put up before arbitration courts and panchayats, and compromise was generally the result. Robberies were generally settled by restoration of the stolen property and payment of a small fine. All civil and criminal cases, in which the parties concerned were the vassals of different Chiefs, were referred to the Political Agent for investigation, who, as far as practicable, applied the Regulations of the East India Company's Courts.

By 1879, justice was administered by the Political Agent and two Assistants. The State of Idar, which was less than one-half of the whole Mahi Kantha population and revenue, was subject only to Political Agent's general supervision and advice. In the other half of the Agency territory the control over the police and the administration of justice were in the hands of the Political Officers. The scheme of classifying the Chiefs and

grading their judicial powers was taken up by the Political Agent in the Mahi Kantha. Thus fifty-two Chiefs in the Mahi Kantha Agency, who had previously exercised undefined judicial powers, were, in 1876-77, categorised according to their status in seven classes, with varying civil and criminal jurisdictions.

"The several chiefs have been divided into seven classes according to their position and wealth, and are allowed to exercise the judicial powers which have been fixed as appropriate to each class. Chiefs of the 1st class, Idar alone-have full civil and crimnial powers, and the powers decrease by a graduated scale to the power to imprison for one month, to fine upto Rs 50 and to hear civil suits of less than Rs. 250 in value, which is exercised by chiefs of the lowest class. A few chiefs have not been considered of sufficient consequence to be entrusted with any powers, and in their States, all matters are referred to the Political Agent, who also exercises the residuary jurisdiction which is not within the cognizance of the several chiefs."[1]

In 1907, the position was as under.

> "None of the jurisdictional Native States and the Talukas in this Agency has its own laws and regulations, but they as well as the Agency Courts administer justice under the spirit of the British Codes. In case of any technical question arising, the procedure laid down in British Codes is generally followed as a guide. The revised rules for defining civil jurisdiction (original and appellate) to be exercised by the Courts of the Mahi Kantha Political Agency for regulating the right of appeal and the payment of Court fees by parties and for ensuring punctuality in the discharge of judicial business were sanctioned by Government."[2]

The British Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes and the Indian Penal Code were thus introduced, but, in the wild Bhil tracts of the Rajputana frontier, all offences were dealt with under the rules based on local customs. It was usual to settle civil suits by arbitration of a jury, panchayat, of four persons, two of whom were named by the Plaintiff and two by the defendant.

As seen earlier, there were two types of Courts in the territory under the Mahi Kantha Agency. These were : (1) the Agency Courts and (2) the Courts in the respective States. The Agency Courts were presided over by the Political Agent and his Assistants and the princely States' Courts by the Chiefs themselves with jurisdictional powers defined by the British

1. *Annual Administration Report of the Bombay Presidency, Mahi Kantha*, 1882-83, p. 89.

2. *Annual Administration Report of Mahi Kantha*, 1906-07, p. 12.

Government. The Government of Bombay was the High Court in the cases of murder, and in other cases the Commissioner, Northern Division, was the High Court. The Court of the Political Agent was the Appellate Court of all the Agency Subordinate Criminal Courts. The Assistant Political Agent heard the civil appeals against the decisions of the respective Thandars in his charge.

The Political Agent enjoyed criminal powers of a District Magistrate, and the Sessions Judge and the appellate powers as also civil powers enjoyed by a District Judge in the Mahi Kantha Agency. The Assistant Political Agent exercised, in the States under his charge, unlimited original and appellate powers in respect of civil jurisdiction and the powers of a First Class Magistrate in criminal matters. The Personal Assistants to the Political Agent exercised, in the talukas and Thana circles in their charge, original powers to the extent of Rs. 5,000, appellate powers to the extent of Rs. 1,000 in civil matters and powers of a First Class Magistrate in criminal matters. The Indian Assistant to the Political Agent had, in the State and talukas in the charge of the Political Agent, original powers to the extent of Rs. 5,000 and appellate powers to the extent of Rs. 1,000 in the civil matters and powers of a First Class Magistrate in the criminal matters The Gadhwada and Sabarkantha Thanas had civil and criminal powers as were delegated to the Indian Assistant to the Political Agent.

The princely States' Courts comprised the States/Estates like Idar, Vijaynagar (Pol), Malpur, Mansa, Mohanpur, Ranasan, Punadra, Ilol, Ambliara, Valasana, Dabha, Sudasana, Rupal, Dabhalia, Magodi, Vadagam, Sathamba, Kadoli and Hapa. They exercised civil and criminal jurisdiction in the following manner in their respective areas.

No Court of a State could try a British subject, without permission of the Political Agent. The civil and criminal appellate powers over the Courts in the Agency States were vested in the Political Agent. The Ruler of class I State of Idar had full civil and criminal powers and could try for capital offences any person except the British subjects. The Thakor of Vijaynagar (Pol), exercised civil jurisdiction to the extent of Rs. 20,000 and all the powers in criminal matters, except the sentence of death requiring confirmation by the Political Agent. The Thakor of Malpur had civil powers to the extent of Rs. 5,000 and could award two years' imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 1,000 in criminal matters. The Thakors of Mohanupr, Ranasan and Punadra Miyan exercised civil powers to the extent of Rs. 5,000 and could award two years' imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 1,000 in criminal matters. The Ilol and Ambliara Thakors had civil jurisdiction to the extent of Rs. 2,500 and in criminal matters, could award six months' imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 500. The Dabha, Rupal, Dabhalia, Magodi, Vadagam and Sathamba Thakors had civil powers to

the extent of Rs. 1,000 and could award six months' imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 250 in criminal matters. The remaining Thakors of Kadoli and Hapa had civil powers to the extent of Rs. 500 and in criminal matters could award three months' imprisonment and fine of Rs. 100.

IDAR

Idar was the only first class State in the whole of the Mahi Kantha Agency areas and had evolved a judicial system for administering the civil and criminal justice. The stages of its growth are described below. Between 1902 and 1931 the judicial department was organised by Maharaja Pratap Singh. From 1932, the Diwan Bhandari put it on the most systematic footing. This system continued till merger. The Political Agent and the Bombay Government exercised general supervision over the Idar State. Being the first class State, its Sessions Court had the powers to inflict capital punishment.

In 1900-01, there were the following Courts for criminal justice.

The Huzur Court	1
The Court of Sessions (presided over by the Naib Diwan)	1
The Court of District Magistrate	1
Courts of the Magistrates of the First Class	4
Courts of the Magistrates of the Second Class	6
Courts of the Magistrates of the Third Class	11
Courts with special powers to try offences punishable with less than seven years' imprisonment	2

The number of civil courts in the State during the year were the Huzur Court, the Court of the Naib Diwan and 3 Munsiffs' Courts.[1] In 1902-03, the courts of the Magistrates of the First Class were abolished but the courts of the Sardars, Bhayats and those with honorary Magistrates' powers were created.

To afford greater facilities to the people in criminal justice, the Maharaja of Idar created three new courts of the Second Class Magistrates with commiting powers for Bhiloda, Meghraj and Idar talukas. The court of the Third Class Magistrate at Meghraj was abolished in the subsequent year and there remained only one court of that grade in the Khalsa territory of

1. *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State*, 1900-01.

Posina.[1] The number of Munsiffs' Courts was increased for the convenience of the public by conferring civil powers of a limited nature on six Mamlatdars. Their jurisdiction extended to hear civil suits upto Rs. 50. The Bhayats' Courts increased by 2 in 1903-04. In the case of civil justice, the jurisdiction of the Taluka Munsiff's was increased. The Idar Court was empowered to hear civil suits upto Rs. 200 and the other Taluka Courts upto Rs. 100.[2] In 1904-05, the Mamlatdars of Idar, Ahmednagar (Himatnagar), Bayad, Bhiloda and Meghraj, who exercised second class magisterial powers, were made First Class Magistrates. A new Mamlatdar's Court at Raigadh with criminal jurisdiction of First Class was created in the year 1904-05.

The Idar and Bayad Courts were empowered to hear civil suits upto Rs. 3,000 and the other Taluka Courts upto Rs. 2,000.[3] Mehkma Khas was not a court for original suits but heard appeals preferred to it against the decisions of the Appellate Judge. The Court of Appellate Judge entertained all original suits in which the value of the claim extended upto Rs. 5,000, as well as those which involved a right to succession and heard appeals from the decisions of the State and the Taluka Munsiffs' in civil cases. The State Munsiff had jurisdiction to try and dispose of civil suits upto the value of Rs. 5,000. The Taluka Munsiffs were empowered to hear such suits upto the value of Rs 2,000 except the Idar and Bayad Courts, which had additional powers to try suits upto Rs 3,000.[4] In the year 1906-07, the Magistrates were divided into stipendiary and Honorary Magistrates The Courts of the First Class Magistrates at Khed, Meghraj and Raigadh were closed owing to the amalgamation of the Mamlatdars of Khed, Meghraj and Raigadh with those of Bhiloda, Idar and Ahmednagar (Himatnagar), respectively. The original court for civil-political suits was that of the Appellate Judge except with regard to the boundary disputes which were disposed of by the Revenue Officer. Appeals on the decisions of these two courts as well as miscellaneous appeals were heard by the Mehkma Khas.[5] The Appellate Judge entertained all original suits in which the value of the claim was above Rs. 5,000 as also applications for succession certificates. His appellate jurisdiction extended over the decisions of the State and Taluka Munsiffs. The two Taluka Munsiffs of Idar and Ahmednagar had powers to hear suits upto value of Rs. 3,000 while those at Bhiloda and Bayad had jurisdiction upto Rs. 2,000, that at Khed upto Rs. 1,000 and that at Meghraj upto Rs. 500 The State Munsiff had original jurisdiction only in cases which were beyond the jurisdiction of the Taluka Munsiffs and where the value did not exceed Rs. 5,000.[6]

1. *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State*, 1902-03, pp. 19-20.
2. *Ibid.*, 1903-04.
3. *Ibid.*, 1904-05.
4. *Ibid.*, 1906.
5. *Ibid.*, 1906-07.
6. *Ibid.*, 1908-09.

The criminal powers exercised by the honorary Magistrates were conferred upon them by the Darbar as a favour and were exercised during his pleasure.[1]

In 1919-20 the Idar Mamlatdar was raised from the grade of Second Class Magistrate to that of a First Class.[2]

In 1931-32, the constitution of Judicial Department underwent a change in as much as the services of First Class Magistrates at Bhiloda and Vadali were dispensed with and the powers of Second Class Magistrates were conferred on the Mamlatdars of those *pattas*. It was further ordered that Himatnagar and Idar First Class Magistrates should hold their courts at Sabalpur and Bayad as well as at Vadali and Bhiloda respectively for the disposal of cases falling within the jurisdiction of the First Class Magistrates. The number of courts exercising criminal jurisdiction remained the same. The administration of civil justice was done in the following manner. There were seven courts exercising civil jurisdiction. The Sar Nyayadhish court was the original court for civil-political suits except with regard to boundary disputes and cases of alienated holdings which were heard and disposed of by the Revenue Officer. Appeals against the decisions of these courts were entertained by the Mehkma Khas, presided over by the Dewan of the State. The Munsiff's Courts at Idar and Himatnagar tried suits upto the value of Rs. 2,000 while those of Bhiloda, Vadali and Sabalpur tried suits up to the value of Rs. 500.[3] In 1933-34, the Munsiff's Court at Himatnagar, Idar and Sabalpur were conferred with powers to try suits upto Rs. 2,000 while the court at Vadali was empowered to try suits upto Rs. 500.[4]

A Separate High Court of the State was established and above it there was the Privy Council, wherein appeals were heard by the Dewan of the State, but the judgements were given in the name of the Maharaja of Idar.

There was also a Special Court known as the "Jagirdar Court or the Sardar Court." It entertained cases between jagirdar and jagirdar, jagirdar and Bhayat, and jagirdar and widow of a deceased jagirdar, both civil and criminal. These cases were generally compromised. If a case was decided by judgement, its appeal lay to the Mehkma Khas Court.

Thus, the administration of justice was sound and the preservation of law and order also was commendable.

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1. *Annual Administration Report of the Idar State*, 1914-15.
2. *Ibid* 1919-20.
3. *Ibid.*, 1931-32, pp. 24, 27, 29.
4. *Ibid.*, 1933-34, pp. 26-28.

POLO (VIJAYNAGAR)

The State of Polo was a second class State in the Mahi Kantha Agency area and was known as Vijaynagar. There was one Court of Second Class Magistrate and the Aval Karkoon was invested with the powers of a Third Class Magistrate. The State being under Agency Management, Manager's Court heard all civil cases.[1]

MALPUR

Malpur was a Third Class taluka and had no laws of its own. The judicial functions were carried on in accordance with those in force in the Agency. There was only one Court, that of the Ravalji, whose jurisdictional powers were in civil matters upto Rs. 5,000 and 2 years' imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 1,000 in criminal matters. The State could not try a British subject without the Political Agent's permission. The Court of the Political Agent was the Appellate Court for the State.[2]

MOHANPUR

In civil matters, the jurisdictional powers of the State were to try suits upto the value of Rs. 10,000 and in criminal matters to pass sentence of imprisonment upto 3 years and fine to the extent of Rs. 5,000 with powers of a District Magistrate. The jurisdictional powers of the State in civil and criminal matters in original except the powers of a District Magistrate were exercised in the first instance by the State Nyayadhish. The powers of a District Magistrate were exercised by the Chief. The appellate powers in both civil and criminal matters against the decisions and orders of the State Nyayadhish were exercised by the Hazur Court but in the year 1941, the appellate powers both in civil and criminal matters were exercised by the Karbhari's Court and appeals over his decisions were heard by the Hazur Court.[3]

PRESENT SET-UP

After the formation of City Civil Courts at Ahmedabad, the Sabarkantha district was placed under the jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Judge, Ahmedabad, (Rural) District, who is the highest judicial authority in the district and presides over the District Court, situated at Narol. It is the principal Court of the original jurisdiction in the district. All the work arising out of the revenue district of Sabarkantha is instituted

1. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. I, (1922), p. 149.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 162.

3. *Annual Administration Report of the Mohanpur State*, for 1940-41, p. 4.

at District Court, Himatnagar. Either the District and Sessions Judge or the Assistant and Additional Sessions Judge used to camp at Himatnagar for the disposal of civil and criminal matters of the revenue district of Sabarkantha. It is also a court of appeal from all decrees and orders passed by subordinate courts in suits valued upto Rs. 10,000. The District Judge, Narol, exercises the general control over all Civil Courts and their establishments in the district. The post of the Joint Judge and Additional Sessions Judge, with its headquarters at Himatnagar was created in the year 1968. The Joint Judge and Additional Sessions Judge exercises all the powers of the District and Sessions Judge, except the administrative powers. He also exercises jurisdiction under the Special Acts like the Bombay Motor Vehicles Act, 1939; Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act, 1925; the Land Acquisition Act, 1894; the Public Trusts Act, 1950; the Bombay District Municipalities Act, 1901; and the Bombay Rent Act, 1947; as adapted and applied in Gujarat State. He is also empowered to try the cases as a Special Judge under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

Subordinate to the District Judge, are the Courts of Civil Judges, Senior Division and Civil Judges, Junior Division. The jurisdiction of the former extends to all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature irrespective of the value of the subject matter and that of the latter to all original suits and proceedings, the subject matter of which does not exceed Rs. 10,000 in value. The Civil Judge, Senior Division, Himatnagar, is also empowered to entertain petitions in respect of marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act, the Muslim Marriage Act, the Parsi Marriage Act, and the Special Marriage Act, insolvency matters under the Insolvency Act, and cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

Besides the District Court at Himatnagar there are courts of Civil Judge, Senior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class at Himatnagar and Civil Judges, Junior Division, and Judicial Magistrates First Class at Idar, Modasa and Prantij. As Small Cause Judges, the Civil Judge, Senior Division and Civil Judge, Junior Division, try cases upto the prescribed pecuniary limits, as per powers vested in them. The Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class, Prantij, also presides over the Children's Court constituted under the Bombay Children Act, 1948. Bayad, Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar and Bhiloda talukas are served by Linked Courts as shown below.

Taluka/ Mahal	Linked Courts
1. Bayad	The Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class, Prantij, holds his court twice in a month for two days each for disposal of criminal work only.

Taluka/ Mahal	Linked Courts
2. Khedbrahma and Vijaynagar	The Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class, Idar, holds his court at Khedbrahma and Vijaynagar on the alternate Monday for disposal of criminal work only.
3. Bhiloda	The Civil Judge, Senior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class, Himatnagar, holds his court for three days in a month for disposal of criminal work only.

Whenever there is any vacancy in these Courts, arrangements for the disposal of work are made by keeping charge with the presiding officer of a court of the neighbouring taluka, as may be convenient, who visits such courts according to the exigencies of the work.

Criminal Work

The Joint Judge is also the Additional Sessions Judge of this district. He tries criminal cases committed to his court by the Judicial Magistrates, First Class after preliminary inquiry and hears appeals against the decisions of the subordinate Magistrates of the district. He is also the Special Judge empowered to try cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The Bombay Separation of Judicial and Executive functions (Extention) Act, 1951 and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Provision for Uniformity) classify Magistrates into two categories : (i) Judicial and (ii) Executive. All Judicial Magistrates in the district are Magistrates of the First Class. They are subordinate to the Sessions Judge who may, from time to time, make rules or give special orders as to the distribution of business among them. Executive Magistrates fall under the following classes : (1) the District Magistrate, (2) the Subdivisional Magistrates and (3) the Taluka Magistrates. All subdivisional Magistrates are subordinate to the District Magistrate and the Taluka Magistrates to the subdivisional Magistrates concerned, subject to the general control of the District Magistrate. They exercise powers and functions detailed in paras III, A-IV and V of Schedule III of the Code of Criminal Procedure Appeals from the orders of Executive Magistrate requiring security for keeping peace lie to the Sessions Court.

The Law Officer of the Government functioning in the Sabarkantha district is the District Government Pleader, who is the Public Prosecutor. He is assisted by the Assistant Public Prosecutor.

Civil Cases

The following statement shows the number of Civil cases classified according to (A) the nature of suits and (B) the amount involved in them during the year 1970.

STATEMENT XII-2

A—Civil Cases Classified According to Nature of Suits, 1970

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number of cases
1	2	3
1	Number of cases pending at the end of the year 1969	551
2	New cases instituted during the year, cases relating to :	
	(a) Money and movable property	761
	(b) Immovable property	131
	(c) Specific relief	77
	(d) Mortgage	9
	(e) Others	..
	Total	978
3	Cases revived and received otherwise	45
4	Suits disposed of during the year	915
	Cases pending at the end of the year	659

B—Civil Cases Classified According to Amount Involved, 1970

Sl. No.	Amount	Number of cases
1	2	3
1	Over Rs. 10 but not exceeding Rs. 50	61
2	Over Rs. 50 but not exceeding Rs. 100	61
3	Over Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 500	322
4	Over Rs. 500 but not exceeding Rs. 1,000	160
5	Over Rs. 1,000 but not exceeding Rs. 5,000	173
6	Over Rs. 5,000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000	16
7	Over Rs. 10,000	22
8	Cases the monetary value of which could not be estimated	163
	Total	978

Out of a total of 978 cases registered in the year 1970, those relating to money and movable property numbered 761. Of these, cases not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value numbered 777, those above Rs. 5,000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000 numbered 16, those above Rs. 10,000 numbered 22, whereas 163 were cases the monetary value of which could not be estimated. Of the total, 915 cases were disposed of during the year and 659 cases were pending at the end of the year.

Criminal Cases

In the year 1970, 10,232 offences were reported in the criminal courts of the Sabarkantha district. The number of persons under trial was 17,202. Of these 7,467 were discharged or acquitted, 6,787 were convicted, 90 were committed to sessions, 10 died or escaped and 2,848 persons were pending for trial at the end of the year.

In the Sessions Court, 43 offences were reported during the year. Persons under trial were 90, of whom 51 were acquitted or discharged, 21 persons were convicted and 18 persons were pending for trial at the end of the year.

Nyaya Panchayats—Over and above the Judicial Courts, the Panchayat Courts are also established in villages covered by Gram Panchayats to try minor offences with a view to avoiding undde hardship and expenditure to the village people. The Nyaya Panchayats were first formed in the Sabarkantha district under the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958, which provided for the constitution of a Nyaya Panchayat for a group of five or more villages. After the enactment of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, the Nyaya Panchayats are established also at places where there are Nagar Panchayats. The Act further provides for the creation of Conciliation Panch, whose main duty is to settle disputes between the parties. The Nyaya Panchayats take congnizance of and try suits in respect of money due on contracts, recovery of movable property and other suits, the value of which does not exceed Rs. 250. They also try certain complaints under the Indian Penal Code, the Bombay Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the Bombay District Vaccination Act and the Bombay Primary Education Act. The Nyaya Panchayats are empowered to inflict maximum penalty in respect of offences triable by it. In the year 1967, there were 92 Nyaya Panchayats in this district constituted in accordance with Section 212 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, covering five to seven Panchayats under each Nyaya Panchayat.

Bar Association—Bar Associations are formed at Himatnagar, Idar, Modasa and Prantij. None of them is registered. Their total membership at the end of the year 1967 was 65.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The role of public administration has been increasingly expanding in recent years to meet the exigencies of planning for a Welfare State. The activities now undertaken by Government are so diverse and manifold that number of departments which did not exist or play any significant part in the past, have come up since Independence to give effect to and keep pace with the growing tempo of work generated by various development activities under the Five Year Plans. The Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Public Works, Industries, Co-operation, etc., have now become important as development departments. The organisational set-up of (1) the Agriculture Department, (2) the Animal Husbandry Department, (3) the Forest Department, (4) the Public Works Department, (5) the Co-operation Department, (6) the Industries Department, (7) office of the District Information Officer, and (8) office of the District Statistical Officer, are dealt with in this Chapter.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The District Agricultural Officer is in charge of the agricultural activities in this district. He is responsible technically to the Superintending Agricultural Officer, Baroda and administratively to the District Development Officer, District Panchayat, Sabarkantha. He is assisted by one Assistant District Agricultural Officer. Besides, there is one Agricultural Officer in charge of the Taluka Seed Multiplication Farms in the district. There are three Agricultural Supervisors looking after schemes relating to improved seeds, plant protection, etc. They are under the technical guidance of the District Agricultural Officer.

The District Agricultural Officer is also assisted by two Assistant Groundnut Production Officers for "Maximised Production of Groundnut Scheme" and one Agricultural Officer for the Cotton Package Scheme. They are assisted by 45 Agricultural Assistants for the execution of these schemes in their respective divisions of the district.

At taluka level in the Taluka Panchayat, there is one Extension Officer (Agriculture) assisted by Village Level Workers (*Gram Sevaks*) under the administrative control of the Taluka Development Officer. Their main work is to propagate improved methods of agriculture among the farmers by individual contacts, group meetings, demonstrations, crop competitions, etc.

The District Agricultural Officer looks after the following important functions. (*i*) implementation of developmental schemes under the Five Year Plans, (ii) holding field demonstrations, (iii) organisation of crop protection services and dry farming methods, (iv) supervision of agricultural activities in talukas, crop-cutting experiments, seed multiplication farms and conducting trials of improved seeds and fertilisers, (v) organisation of farmers' unions, crop competition programmes, etc., (vi) distribution of improved seeds and implements, (vii) distribution of plant protection appliances, insecticides, fungicides, etc., (viii) preparation of town and rural composts, and (ix) technical guidance to Co-operative Farming Societies.

After the implementation of the Gujarat Panchayats Act in 1963, Production Committees have been formed at district and taluka levels. The District Agricultural Officer works as the secretary at district level and the Extension Officer (Agriculture) at the taluka level.

There are other establishments of Agriculture Department in the district. Their technical activities are directly under the control of the Superintending Agricultural Officer, Baroda and they have no relation with District Panchayat.

(1) The Cotton Superintendent looks after the cotton control activities.

(2) Sub-Divisional Soil-Conservation Officer looks after the contour bunding, field channels, *kotar* bunding and land-levelling activities.

(3) The main Agriculture Research Station at Talod and sub-Research Station at Khedbrahma conduct research on main crops of the district, *i. e.*, cotton, millet, groundnut and other oil-seed crops.

(4) The Assistant Agricultural Engineer looks after the boring, blasting and other allied activities.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department

The Animal Husbandry Department is concerned with veterinary and livestock activities. It looks after cattle wealth by improving their breed, giving necessary veterinary aid and taking measures against contagious and infectious diseases. For these activities, there is one office at the district level headed by the District Animal Husbandry Officer. He is responsible technically to the Director of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad and administratively to the District Development Officer, District Panchayat, Sabarkantha. For the improvement of the breed of cattle, sick animals are treated in veterinary dispensaries, scrub animals are castrated and vaccinations are provided to check the spread of contagious diseases among cattle.

The District Animal Husbandry Officer is assisted in his work by 10 Veterinary Officers posted at each taluka headquarters and 32 Stockmen posted at various other places.

The district has 10 veterinary dispensaries, 4 branch veterinary dispensaries and 24 veterinary centres. The veterinary dispensaries are in charge of Veterinary Officers while the veterinary centres are looked after by Stockmen. There is one Artificial Insemination Centre and one Poultry Farm at Himatnagar, each under a separate Veterinary Officer.

THE FOREST DEPARTMENT

The Chief Conservator of Forests with headquarters at Baroda is the head of the Forest Department of the Gujarat State. Under him, there are three territorial circles, *viz.*, (i) the Baroda Circle, Baroda, (ii) the Surat Circle, Surat and (iii) the Junagadh Circle, Junagadh and two other Circles for special work, each under a Conservator of Forests. The two special Circles are (i) Extension Circle and (ii) Research and Working Plans Circle. Both these Circles are located at Baroda. The Conservators of Forests have under them Divisional Forest Officers to look after the administration of Divisions under their charge. They belong to the Gujarat Forest Service Class I. The Divisional Forest Officers are assisted by the Sub-Divisional Forest Officers who belong to Gujarat Forest Service Class II. The Sabarkantha Forest Division is one of the Divisions functioning directly under the control of the Conservator of Forests, Baroda Circle, Baroda. This Division has its jurisdiction over four districts, *viz.*, Sabarkantha, Ahmedabad, Kaira and Mehsana.

The total forest area in the Sabarkantha district in the year 1969-70 was 641·55 sq. kms The main functions of the Forest Department are :

(1) protection, conservation and development of forests, prevention of soil erosion and increasing of soil fertility,

(2) the exploitation and utilisation of the forests for obtaining maximum yield.' This implies framing of working plans for the scientific management of forests, and

(3) the conduct of research into silviculture, utilisation and other problems affecting the regeneration and development of forests. The State Government has, however, laid special stress on conservation and afforestation schemes. The State is most conservative and reluctant in considering proposals for deforestation of the forest area for purposes of cultivation, etc. It has undertaken further schemes for afforestation of arid and blank areas, soil conservation, rehabilitation of pasture lands, preservation of wild life, etc.

Administration and Management of Wild Life

The administration and management of wild life in the State rests almost entirely with the Forest Department. The Chief Conservator of Forests, who is the head of the Department, is also the Wild Life Preservation Officer, while the Divisional and Range Forest Officers also function as *ex-officio* Wild Life Wardens and Assistant Wild Life Wardens, respectively within their jurisdictions. Some members of the public interested in wild life conservation have been appointed as non-official Wild Life Wardens for their respective districts.

In the past, hunting was controlled and regulated under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. It was applicable to the Government forests only and was, therefore, ineffective for dealing with wild life offences committed in non-forest areas and lands of private ownership. It was the erstwhile State of Bombay which gave a pioneering lead to the rest of the country by enacting an exemplary piece of legislation known as the Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1951, which was extended to forest as well as non-forest areas. After the formation of the Gujarat State, this Act was suitably amended and promulgated as the Gujarat Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1963. The salient features of this Act are as follows :

(1) The Act classifies the wild life of the State into different categories, *viz.*, small game, big game and special big game for each of which a separate kind of game licence has been prescribed. These game licences, which are valid for the entire State of Gujarat, can be obtained from the Wild Life Preservation Officer or from the Wild Life Wardens on payment of monthly or annual fees at the following rates :

	Monthly fees Rs.	Annual fees Rs.
(i) Small Game Licence	10	20
(ii) Big Game Licence	30	60
(iii) Special Big Game Licence	Not being issued at present since lions are completely protected	

The species permitted to be shot on these game licences and the bag limit prescribed are as under :

(i) Small Game Licence ...	One bluebull, one wild boar, one hyaena, one wolf, hares and feathered game (no limit).

(The close season for small game extends from 1st April to 30th September).

(ii) Big Game Licence ... One panther and one sloth bear.

(There is no close season for big game).

Certain harmful species have been declared as vermin and no game licence is required for shooting the same. However, a free permit from the Divisional Forest Officer is required to be obtained for shooting vermin. The following animals, birds and reptiles are completely protected :

(i)	Lion	(x)	Four-horned Antelope
(ii)	Wild Ass	(xi)	Rusty Spotted Cat
(iii)	Hunting Cheetah	(xii)	Pigmy Hog
(iv)	Tiger	(xiii)	Great Indian Bustard
(v)	Sambhar	(xiv)	Flamingo
(vi)	Cheetal	(xv)	Pea Fowl
(vii)	Barking Deer	(xvi)	Pink-headed Duck
(viii)	Black Buck	(xvii)	White-winged Wood Duck
(ix)	Chinkara	(xviii)	Crocodile

There is no system of shooting-blocks in this State.

Besides the above game licences, licences are also issued for trapping and possessing pet animals and birds and for dealing in trophies

(2) It prohibits unsporting methods of hunting.

(3) It provides for the destruction of dangerous animals which have become a menace to human life or property

(4) It provides for the compounding of offences against wild life out of court, failing which the offender can be prosecuted and punished on conviction.

(5) It provides for the setting up of a State Wild Life Advisory Board comprising officials and non-officials to advise the State Government on

matters and problems pertaining to wild life. This Board works in close liaison with the Indian Board for Wild Life.

(6) It provides for the establishment of wild life sanctuaries.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department is one of the important departments of the Government, as various developmental works are executed through it. Consequent upon the implementation of the Five Year Plans, it undertakes, on behalf of the Government, construction and maintenance of major irrigation works, bridges and roads inclusive of those required for the defence of the country.

The Public Works Department deals with ; (1) Roads and Buildings, (2) Irrigation, (3) Electricity, and (4) Ports. The spheres of activities of each of these branches are independent of each other. The first two branches work under a separate Superintending Engineer, while the work relating to electricity is placed under the charge of the Chief Electrical Engineer to the Government. The port organisation is headed by the Director of Ports with headquarters at Ahmedabad.

Roads and Buildings

Till May, 1970, there was no separate Division of Roads and Buildings for the Sabarkantha district. The same was under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings Division, P. W. D., Mehsana. However, a separate Division of Roads and Buildings for the Sabarkantha district has been created since June 1970 and is placed under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings Division, Public Works Department, with headquarters at Himatnagar. He (Executive Engineer) in turn functions under the guidance of the Superintending Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Circle No. 1, Ahmedabad.

There are three sub-divisions, *viz.*, two at Himatnagar and one at Modasa each under the charge of the Deputy Engineer who functions under the control and guidance of the Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings Division, Public Works Department, Himatnagar. The Executive Engineer looks after the construction and maintenance of those roads belonging to the Government. He also looks after the maintenance and repairs of the Government buildings in the district.

The Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer belong to the Gujarat Service of Engineers, Class I, while the Deputy Engineers to the Gujarat Service of Engineers, Class II. The sub-divisions are further divided into sections, which are placed in charge either of Junior Supervisor or an Overseer.

With the introduction of the Panchayati Raj from the 1st April, 1963, the roads below the category of the National and State Highways, *i. e.*, Major District Roads, the Other District Roads and the Village Roads have been transferred to the District Panchayat and are placed under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Sabarkantha District Panchayat, Himatnagar.

In the district, in 1970-71, the Public Works Department maintained 438 kms., of roads, while the District Panchayat maintained 1,183 kms., of roads.

Irrigation

After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, the minor irrigation schemes have been transferred to the District Panchayat and medium and major irrigation schemes are retained by the Government in Public Works Department.

For major and medium irrigation schemes, there is a separate division known as the Sabarkantha Canal Division under the charge of the Executive Engineer (Irrigation) with headquarters at Himatnagar. He functions under the control and guidance of the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Project Circle, Ahmedabad. There are four sub-divisions, *viz.*, two at Himatnagar and one each at Modasa and Prantij. These sub-divisions are under the charge of the Deputy Engineers.

Minor irrigation schemes which are transferred to the district panchayat from April, 1963, are placed under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Sabarkantha District Panchayat, Himatnagar, who is also in charge of the roads under the Sabarkantha District Panchayat. There are two sub-divisions under him each at Himatnagar and Modasa, which are placed under the charge of Deputy Engineers.

In Sabarkantha district, two medium irrigation schemes, *viz.*, Hathmati and Meshvo are under the charge of the Sabarkantha Canal Division, Himatnagar, and nearly fourty-five minor irrigation schemes are under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Sabarkantha District Panchayat, Himatnagar.

Electrical Circle

For carrying out advisory, administrative and executive duties pertaining to the generation and use of electricity in the State, there is an Electrical Wing in the Public Works Department headed by the Chief Engineer, Electrical Division, Ahmedabad. There are four Electrical Divisions with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Gandhinagar, respectively. The Sabarkantha district is placed under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, P. W. D., Ahmedabad. The Deputy Engineer, Electrical Sub-division, Ahmedabad,, who works under the control of the Executive

Engineer, Electrical Division, Ahmedabad, arranges for the electrical installations and their maintenance in the Government buildings in the Sabarkantha district. The inspection wing is working under the Department of the Industries, Mines and Power of the State Government. The Assistant Electrical Inspector at Mehsana performs the duties under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and carries out inspection of medium pressure and high-tension electrical installations, power houses, cinemas, etc., in this district with the help of the Electrical Sub-Inspector and other staff working under him.

Ports

There are no ports in the district.

CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT

The Co-operation Department is headed by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who is headquartered at Ahmedabad. This department works under the Agriculture, Forest and Co-operation Department at the State level. Besides, Registrar of Co-operative Societies also functions in different capacities such as the Registrar General of Money-lenders, the Director of Cottage Industries and the Director of Agricultural Marketing. He is assisted by Deputy and Assistant Registrars working at the headquarters. As the Registrar General of Money-lenders, he enforces the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, which provides for the regulation and control over the transactions of money-lenders. In his capacity as the Director of Agricultural Marketing, he enforces the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1963 and performs the functions of organisation and constitution of regulated markets, assessment of licence fees, rates of commission, etc., and gives technical guidance as regards the manner in which the accounts of the market committees should be maintained. As the Director of Cottage Industries and Industrial Co-operatives, he is assisted at the headquarters by (1) a Deputy Registrar, (2) a Deputy Development Officer for Handicrafts, (3) an Engineer for Cottage Industries, (4) a Textile Expert, (5) an Assistant Director for Khadi and Village Industries, and (6) a Textile Officer.

Before the reorganisation of the Co-operative Department in 1968, there were three Divisional Deputy Registrars with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot and District Registrars in each of the districts in the State. The Sabarkantha district was placed under the Deputy Registrar, Ahmedabad Division, who had jurisdiction over the districts of Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Mehsana and Kaira. At the district level, the District Registrars carried out the functions of all the four wings of the Co-operation Department, *viz.*, (i) co-operation, (ii) industrial co-operatives, (iii) agricultural marketing, and (vi) money-lending.

With the introduction of the Panchayati Raj from April, 1963, some of the powers and functions of the co-operative sector were transferred to the panchayats and the services of the District Registrars were placed at the disposal of the district panchayats, though they continued to hold the charge of the subjects dealt with by the Government. With effect from September, 1964, they were withdrawn from the district panchayats but the services of the Assistant District Registrars were placed at the disposal of the district panchayats to look after the subjects transferred to the panchayats. Thus one Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies deputed to the district panchayat, deals with subjects transferred to the panchayats. These relate to the (i) registration of societies, (ii) maintenance of prescribed registers, (iii) powers relating to the formation, registration or continuation of the societies and their membership, (iv) amendment of bye-laws, (v) change of name of the society, (vi) disposal of the surplus assets of societies in the event of their closure, and (vii) holding annual general and special meetings of the co-operative societies. The societies in respect of which these powers are delegated to the panchayats are: agricultural credit, service co-operatives, consumers' stores, labour contract and industrial co-operatives, etc.

With a view to achieving greater efficiency and economy in expenditure, the Co-operation Department was reorganised in June, 1968. Broad features of the revised set-up of the department are as follows :

(1) The Divisional Offices under the Deputy Registrars with the headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot were abolished, and the powers exercised and duties performed by them have been adjusted between the offices of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies at the State level and the District Registrars at the district level.

(2) The activities of the department are divided into four new sections, such as (i) Co-operation and Agricultural Marketing, (ii) Industrial Co-operatives and Cottage Industries, (iii) Money-lending, and (iv) Audit,

(3) The administration of the department at the district level has been decentralised. Instead of placing all the four different sections under the charge of a single District Registrar, as was done prior to the reorganisation of the department in June, 1968, these sections, (excepting Audit) are placed under the charge of different District Registrars, who are functioning quite independently of each other and are in charge of one or more districts.

(4) No change has been made in the set-up of the department at the State level, *i. e.*, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies still continues to be the administrative and executive head of all the different activities of the department,

(5) The existing arrangement of deputing one Assistant District Registrar to each district panchayat still continues even after the reorganisation of the department. In the Sabarkantha district, the administrative set-up of each of the sections is as under :

(1) *Co-operation and Agricultural Marketing*

According to the revised set-up, a District Registrar, Class I with headquarters at Ahmedabad deals with Co-operation and Agricultural Marketing section and exercises jurisdiction over the districts of Sabarkantha, Ahmedabad (Rural) and Gandhinagar. He is assisted by one Office Superintendent, one Head Clerk, two Co-operative Officers, four Assistant Co-operative Officers and other staff at the headquarters. The District Registrar also functions as the Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance. He exercises powers in respect of all types of societies including federal societies having jurisdiction beyond the district as also in respect of subjects not transferred to the panchayats. He entertains proposals for the establishment of regulated markets and the declaration of the market yards.

For carrying out the work of Co-operation and Agricultural Marketing wing in the Sabarkantha district, the District Registrar, Ahmedabad (Rural) is assisted by an Assistant District Registrar, Class II, three Co-operative Officers, one Head Clerk, four Assistant Co-operative Officers and other staff posted at Himatnagar. The Assistant District Registrar, Himatnagar exercises all the powers of the District Registrar in the district in respect of Co-operation and Agricultural Marketing section, except the federal societies at the district level.

(2) *Industrial Co-operatives and Cottage Industries*

For dealing with this work, the Sabarkantha district is placed under another District Registrar, Class I, who has his headquarters at Ahmedabad with jurisdiction over Ahmedabad, Sabarkantha, Mehsana, Panchmahals, Banaskantha, Kaira and Gandhinagar districts. His functions are ; (1) organisation of industrial co-operatives, their inspection and supervision, (2) scrutiny of loan applications of industrial co-operatives and artisans, (3) enquiry into the complaints about malpractices, (4) guidance to industrial co-operative societies and artisans, and (5) maintenance of close contact with them, etc.

The work of these societies in the district is looked after by the Co-operative Officer (Industries) at Himatnagar. He is assisted by a Senior Clerk, Junior Clerk, Junior Supervisor and other staff.

(3) *Money-lending*

The District Registrar, Money-lenders, Class I with headquarters at Ahmedabad exercises jurisdiction over the districts of Sabarkantha, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Kaira and Panchmahals. He is responsible for the proper implementation of the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 in these districts and grants or refuses licences to money-lenders under the Act. In case of breach of law, he is empowered to compound the offences under section 35-C of the Act. It is also his duty to take final decision in cases of illicit money-lending detected by his subordinate officers.

The District Registrar, Money-lenders, Ahmedabad is assisted by two Assistant District Registrars, one each at Mehsana and Nadiad. The Assistant District Registrar of Money-lenders at Mehsana exercises jurisdiction over the Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts. He conducts inquiries into applications for licences of money-lending and forwards them with his report to the District Registrar of Money-lenders. At the district level, the Co-operative Officer, Money-lending works as the Inspector of Money-lenders at Himatnagar. He detects the cases of illicit money-lending, which the Assistant District Registrar, Money-lenders forwards with his remarks to the District Registrar of Money-lenders for final disposal.

(4) *Audit*

Section 84 of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961, provides for the statutory audit of every society once a year by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies or by any person so authorised by him. This duty is carried out by him through the departmental as well as through the certified auditors.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

The main activities of the Department of Industries relate to the establishment of large and medium scale industries, assistance to small scale and cottage industries, establishment of industrial estates, store-purchase organisation, enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act, control of raw materials for industries, issue of essentiality certificates, export-promotion, etc. Thus, the activities under the department can broadly be classified into ; (1) large and medium industries (2) small-scale and cottage industries, (3) store-purchase, (4) raw materials, and (5) weights and measures.

The Department of Industries give to industrialists technical advise and also furnishes information in respect of raw materials, manufacturing

processes and industrial potentialities. It conducts research and investigation in technical problems relating to industries.

The department is headed by the Commissioner of Industries, who is headquartered at Ahmedabad. He works in several capacities such as the Controller of Weights and Measures, Controller of Coal and Coke and Controller of Molasses and Controller and Store Purchase Officer. Besides, he is instrumental in implementing the industrial policy of the Central and the State Governments. Under him, there is one Deputy Director of Weights and Measures at Ahmedabad, who is in charge of the implementation of the Weights and Measures Act in the State. At the regional level, there are four more Deputy Directors of Industries, one each at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Mehsana and two Assistant Directors of Industries one each at Surat and Adipur (Kutch district). Besides looking after industrial development, they act as Deputy Controllers of Weights and Measures and Assistant Controllers of Weights and Measures respectively in their regions.

The Sabarkantha district falls under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Director of Industries, Mehsana. He is in charge of the industrial development activities in his region which covers Mehsana, Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts. The Deputy Director of Industries has under him Industries Officers separately for each district. The Industries Officer is assisted by Industries Inspectors in carrying out the investigation of applications and for implementation of Weights and Measures Act.

Among the activities carried out by the Deputy Director of Industries in his region are issue of essentiality certificates for the import of capital goods and raw materials and the issue of allotment and assessed capacity certificates for the steel processing industries. He is also empowered to recommend for pig iron and scraps for foundries and looks after the proper implementation of Weights and Measures Act. The Deputy Director of Industries is in charge of growth and development of small scale industries in his region. He is also empowered to recommend applications for purchase of machinery under hire-purchase scheme worked by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., New Delhi. He also recommends applications from small scale units for registration with the Director General, Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi.

He is functioning as Deputy Collector of Weights and Measures for the administration of the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, and the Rules made thereunder. Under these Act and Rules the Industries Inspectors collect fees for verification and reverification of weights and measures, weighing instruments, etc. After they are found to comply with the provisions of the Act, they are stamped. He is empowered to prosecute for breaches of the provisions of the Act.

At the district level, each district has a separate Industries Officer. He is charged with a number of functions which are more or less analogous to those assigned to the Deputy Director at the regional level. The most important function assigned to the Industries Officer is to look after the promotional aspect of industrial development in the district. To this end, he has to render all possible help to the parties approaching him for industrial advice regarding the industrial potentialities such as infra-structure facilities like water, power, land, communications, etc. He has to assist them in getting required raw materials. loans and machinery on hire-purchase system. Other functions besides these relate to the proper enforcement of the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958 and Rules made thereunder. In this task, he is assisted by the Industries Inspectors who are required to visit centres allotted to them. At present there are 3 Industries Inspectors working under him each having headquarters at Talod, Idar and Modasa. In addition to the work of weights and measures, these Inspectors assist the Industries Officer in the investigation of applications for the import of scarce and controlled raw materials, power subsidy, registration of small scale industries, telephone priority. collection of industrial statistics and information relating to industrial activities in the district. After investigation, the Inspectors submit their reports to the Industries Officer who, after ascertaining their genuineness, forwards them to the Deputy Director of Industries, Mehsana with his recommendations. The Deputy Director thereafter issues necessary permits or essentiality certificates on merits. Similar procedure is followed in respect of applications for loans under the State Aid to Small Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935 or under the schemes operated by the State Bank of India or the Gujarat State Financial Corporation or for the hire-purchase of machinery, telephone priority, etc.

Further, the Industries Officer is empowered to register the small scale industrial units and grant power subsidy to these registered units. In the district, till 1970-71, 47 units of small scale industries were registered under the provisions of the Gujarat State Subsidy to Electric Power Consumption (Cottage and Small Scale Industries) Rules, 1965 and 25 electricity duty exemption certificates have been issued.

Power Subsidy to Small Scale Industries

With a view to encouraging cottage and small scale industries and increasing their production through the use of electric power, a subsidy scheme for electricity consumed by cottage and small scale industries is implemented by the Commissioner of Industries. Under this scheme, all small scale industries except flour mills, (excluding roller flour mills), rice and pulse mills, photographic units, ice factories, ice cream, ice candy and ice fruits industry (excluding cold storage), laundries, units engaged in

the repacking of medical and toilet goods, oil expellers and tailoring units, having a connected load not exceeding 30 horse power are eligible for subsidy. The quantum of subsidy admissible under the scheme is the differential amount between the actual rate paid per unit consumed, and

(i) 3 paise per unit subject to maximum of 12 paise per unit, and shall be payable for a period of ten years, from the date of its registration under the Rules, if the industry is situated in an area with a population upto 20,000 or

(ii) 6 paise per unit subject to a maximum of 9 paise per unit and shall be payable for a period of seven years from the date of its registration under the Rules, if the industry is situated in an area with population between 20,000 and 1,00,000 or

(iii) 9 paise per unit subject to a maximum of 6 paise per unit and shall be payable for a period of five years from the date of its registration under the rules if the industry is situated in an area with a population of one lakh and above. However, subsidy is not payable on the consumption of electric power exceeding 2,000 kwh in any month, in respect of small scale industrial units and 2,500 kwh in any month in respect of industrial co-operatives. Units desiring to avail of the subsidy are required to get themselves registered with the Industries Officer of the district concerned. The total amount disbursed as power subsidy amounted to Rs. 17,490·55 during the year 1970-71.

Further the Industries Officer under the rehabilitation scheme grants loans to goldsmiths as well as to the Burmese and the Portuguese repatriates to the extent of Rs. 2,000 and maximum Rs. 5,000 per applicant with the sanction of the Commissioner of Industries. He has to look after the recovery work of these loans. Till 1970-71, Rs. 3,35,853·54 have been granted as loans to 185 goldsmiths. No loans have been granted to any Burmese and Portuguese repatriates in the district.

With a view to quickening the tempo of development of industries in the district and to achieve more effective co-ordination in providing infra-structure facilities to industries, the Collector of the district has been designated as *ex-officio* Deputy Commissioner of Industries since October, 1967. The functions and powers assigned to him are :

(1) allotment of factory sheds and plots in the Government industrial estates,

(2) holding of seminars connected with industries,

(3) formulation of District Master Plans and publishing them,

(4) co-ordination of activities of various heads of officies/departments with regard to infra-structure facilities. He has to act as a Chairman of the District Level Committee and solve the problems placed before the Committee.

(5) correspondence with all authorities in or outside the State directly with regard to the difficulties of industries in the district, and

(6) supervision over the information centres functioning in the district.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER

The important function of Government in a democracy is to keep the people informed of the work of Government in various spheres of development and administration in order to enable them to take advantage of the welfare schemes of Government and to ensure popular participation. For this purpose, Government has appointed a Director of Information at the State level and the District Information Officer at the district level. The latter (the District Information Officer) is responsible for supply of information, publicity and public relations in the district.

The District Information Officer is headquartered at Himatnagar. He acts as a link between Government Offices and the press, keeps himself in touch with offices of various departments in the district and issues to the press news items which supply factual information on schemes and activities of the Government in the district. He also organises visits of pressmen to development works, as and when considered necessary and organises press conferences to provide an opportunity to the press to get first hand knowledge of the subjects. He acts as a correspondent of the Directorate of Information, Gujarat State, covers on its behalf working of Government schemes and activities and calls press conferences.

As in every other district of the State, a mobile publicity van is placed at the disposal of the District Information Officer. The van is equipped with a 16 mm. projector. It is taken round the district and film shows and talks which are both instructive and entertaining are arranged on various nation-building activities such as agriculture, cattle improvement, health, prohibition, untouchability, small savings, education, defence, family planning, the Five Year Plans, etc. He thereby keeps the rural folk informed of the concessions and facilities offered to them by the State and Central Governments and also distributes leaflets, pamphlets, posters, etc., on items of public interest.

An information centre has been started at Himatnagar where books, periodicals, charts, etc., bearing on the Five Year Plans and their progress are displayed.

Broadcasting

The All India Radio, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Bhuj broadcasts daily in evening a programme in Gujarati specially for rural listeners. Till July 1970, the Government of Gujarat had installed 529 community receiving-sets in the villages of the district. These sets are maintained and repaired by the Technical Assistant, Rural Broadcasting, who is stationed at Himatnagar.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT STATISTICAL OFFICER

The Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad is the apex office concerned with the collection and compilation of statistical data so very essential for planning and development programmes of the State. It has a statistical office in each district under a District Statistical Officer, who is responsible for improving the quality of the basic statistics at the district level. The District Statistical Officer functions under the District Panchayat after the formation of the Panchayati Raj from 1st April, 1963. The Disrict Statistical Officer has to collect and compile statistical data on behalf of the district panchayat. Some of the important activities carried out by the District Statistical Officer are :

(1) publication of the District Statistical Abstract every year,

(2) collection of data pertaining to prices,

(3) to watch the progress of Community Development Programme.

(4) to watch the progress of district level plan schemes and prepare quarterly reports of progress of plan schemes,

(5) to prepare and publish the Administration Reports of the district panchayat,

(6) to conduct various types of surveys such as (i) socio-economic survey, (ii) road transport survey, etc., and

(7) to watch the correctness of crop cutting experiments carried out by the Agriculture Department.

PART VI—WELFARE DEPARTMENTS

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

INTRODUCTION

Local self-Government functioned in cities in ancient India but in the sense in which it is understood to-day, it was first introduced in the town of Madras in the days of the East India Company. In 1687 A. D., the Court of Directors ordered that, a corporation composed of British and Indian members should be formed for the purpose of local taxation, as funds were needed for carrying on administration. It was felt that it would be easier to collect taxes, if the Indians were associated in their levy. This was because, no system of local self-Government could be a success unless it was provided with adequate finance. Local self-Government as a conscious process of administrative devolution and political education dates from the financial reforms of Lord Mayo's Government In his famous Resolution the need for financial decentralisation was felt as an aid to economy and efficiency of administration. As a result, Government of India transferred to Provincial Governments certain departments of administration of which education, medical services and roads deserved special mention. The Provincial Governments were given grants smaller than the actual expenditure on the departments, and were required to meet the balance by local taxation. The second stage in the history of the local self-Government was reached, when the famous Resolution of 1882 A. D. was issued by Lord Mayo. It was the first real step in the experiment in grafting upon the paternal system of the Indian administration the democratic form of local self-Government. The experiment was made with the expectation of better services and greater amenities of life, and local bodies were called upon to serve as basic training ground for democracy.

MUNICIPALITIES

A beginning in respect of municipal administration was made in 1855 A. D., when a municipality was established at Prantij which then formed part of Ahmedabad district. The second municipality was established at Modasa which also was in Ahmedabad district. The Modasa town being in one corner of the district, no attention was given to its development during the British rule. The municipality at Himatnagar came into existence in 1918 A. D. during ex-Idar State regime. The Mamlatdar of Himatnagar taluka acted as the *ex-officio* president of the municipality during that period and even

after the merger of Idar State in Sabarkantha district, he acted as such till 3rd August, 1952. From that date onwards the charge of the president of the Himatnagar Municipality was handed over to one of the popular councillors elected by the people of Himatnagar. Besides Himatnagar, Idar was another town where the municipality was established. Thus, prior to the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, which came into force from 1st April, 1963, there were four municipalities, *viz.*, (1) Himatnagar Municipality, (2) Prantij Municipality, (3) Modasa Municipality and (4) Idar Municipality. These municipalities covered 4 towns with a population of 53,786. The average population per municipality was 13,447. The statement given below shows area, population, income and expenditure of each muncipality in the district in 1960-61.

STATEMENT XIV·1

Municipalities, Area, Population, Income and Expenditure for the Year 1960-61

Municipality	Area in sq. miles	Population	Income (in Rs.)	Income per head (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)	Expenditure per head (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Idar ..	1.00	10,810	88,767	8.20	1,01,182	9.35
Himatnagar .	1.10	15,013	1,33,517	8.88	1,48,893	9.90
Modasa ..	2.31	16,226	1,14,302	7.05	1,26,873	7.82
Prantij ..	0.58	11,698	1,52,198	13.01	1,53,279	13.10
Total ..	**4.99**	**53,786**	**4,88,874**	**9.09**	**5,30,227**	**9.86**

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 8.

The Democratic Decentralisation Committee appointed by the State Government recommended formation of gram panchayats at places having population of 10,000 and below, and nagar panchayats at places having population between 10,000 to 30,000. This recommendation was accepted and on the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961, all these municipalities were converted into nagar panchayats. There are, therefore, no municipalities in the district.

The District Local Board

The District Local Board constituted under the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923, came into existence in the district on 10th January, 1953. The Board consisted of 33 members elected by general constituencies of whom 6 were elected on reserved seats (two seats each for women, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes). In order to discharge the

functions in the best possible manner, a portion of the land revenue was allocated to the Board. The Board was also empowered to collect certain local cesses and taxes. The total income and expenditure of the Board during 1960-61 were Rs. 24,32,481 and Rs. 13,31,695 respectively. With effect from April, 1963, the District Local Board was abolished and the District Panchayat was formed in Sabarkantha district as in other districts.

TOWN PLANNING

Prior to Independence, the town planning activity in 29 States and Estates and the Prantij taluka and Modasa mahal of the former Ahmedabad district which now constitute the Sabarkantha district, was practically absent Moreover, as the preparation of the Master Plan was not obligatory on the part of the local authority, the town planning schemes in the district did not show any significant progress even after Independence and during the First Five Year Plan. It was, therefore, felt that unless it was made obligatory on the part of the local authority to prepare a Master Plan of the area within its jurisdiction within a prescribed time and unless suitable legal provision was made for its enforcement, the local authority would not undertake the work of preparation of Master Plan. In order to remedy this situation. the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954 was enacted. The new Act came into force on 1st April, 1957. Under this Act it was made obligatory on the part of every local authority to prepare a development plan of the area within its jurisdiction within 4 years from 1st April. 1957. After the formation of the Gujarat State, the need for a uniform legislation for all the 3 constituent units of Gujarat State, *viz.*, Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch was felt. The Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954 was, therefore, amended by the Bombay Town Planning (Gujarat Extension and Amendment) Act, 1967.

The Town Planning and Valuation Department in Gujarat State performs manifold activities in the sphere of both planning and valuation of lands and buildings and provides consultancy services to Government. Since most of the local authorities have no technical staff of their own, it has been decided by the Department to prepare development plans for local authorities. So far as the Sabarkantha district is concerned, the development plan of Modasa has been prepared. Development plans of Prantij, Idar and Himatnagar are under preparation. It is also proposed to prepare the development plan of Talod during the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

Development Plan of Modasa

By the end of Second Five Year Plan, the development plan of Modasa was prepared. This plan was again revised by the Department and the revised plan was published by the Nagar Panchayat inviting

suggestions from the public under provisions of the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954. The plan estimates that about Rs. 27,01,724 will be spent on lands during next ten years.

Development Plans of Idar and Himatnagar

The surveys have been carried out of Idar and Himatnagar towns and development plans are under preparation.

PANCHAYATS

If the attainment of political system has any meaning for rural areas, it should provide them with the means and opportunities for economic and social betterment. To achieve these objectives, the people must have their own organisation for evolving and implementing rural development programmes which cannot be better fulfilled than through the institutions of village panchayats. The village panchayat, therefore, is a basic unit of local self-Government. The Constitution of India lays special emphasis on local self-Government. Article 40 of the Constitution states:

"The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-Government". The Five Year Plans have assigned a place of pride to the panchayats in the task of decentralising the local administration and in giving them necessary scope for initiative, planning and execution of schemes aiming at the welfare and development of the village economy.

The village panchayats in the Sabarkantha district were governed by the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1933. The Act provided for establishment of village panchayats and enumerated their powers and functions. In 1958, a new Act called the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958, was enacted. This Act introduced several important features which are summarised below.

The Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958

After the formation of the bilingual Bombay State, as there were different Acts prevalent in different areas, a new Act called the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 was enacted. Under this Act, a District Village Panchayat Mandal was constituted for the district for exercising powers of supervision, guidance and control over panchayats in the district. In order that the representatives of village panchayats may have an effective voice in shaping the policy in regard to matters concerning village panchayats, seven to twelve members were elected to the Mandal by Sarpanchs in the district from amongst themselves.

The important features of the Act are :

(1) reservation of two seats for women in every village panchayat ;

(2) constitution of Gram Sabha of all residents in the village, who are entitled to vote ;

(3) establishment of a District Village Panchayat Mandal for every district ;

(4) the secretary of a village panchayat to be a Government servant and to be paid by Government ;

(5) training of village panchayat secretaries to be provided by Government ;

(6) entrusting the work of collection of land revenue (including cesses) to village panchayats ;

(7) payment of land revenue grant to all village panchayats in the State on an uniform basis at a rate not less than 25 per cent of the ordinary land revenue and not exceeding 30 per cent of the ordinary land revenue ;

(8) constitution of a group nyaya panchayat for a group of five villages or more.

Thus, the Act, had provided for a number of measures to activise the village panchayats and training of rural people in the village administration.

Functions—The panchayats were given more powers and functions under this Act. They have been enumerated in section 45 of the Act and they fall under the different spheres such as ·

(i) maintenance of sanitation and health ;

(ii) maintenance of sanitary public works ;

(iii) maintenance of self-defence and village defence ;

(iv) spread of education and culture ;

(v) running of village administration ;

(vi) maintenance of welfare of the people ;

(vii) improvement of agriculture and preservation of forests;

(viii) improvement of breeds and protection of cattle;

(ix) revival and encouragement of village industries, and

(x) collection of land revenue.

After the formation of Gujarat State on 1st May, 1960, the concept of Democratic Decentralisation gained momentum. The State of Gujarat alike other States of India also strove to achieve Democratic Decentralisation by introducing the Panchayati Raj. The circumstances leading to the enactment of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 and the subsequent developments that have taken place are described in the subsequent pages.

Democratic Decentralisation--The Frist Five Year Plan stressed the role of local bodies in the implementation of development programmes and indicated that the general policy of Government should be to encourage them in assuming responsiblity for as large a portion of administrative and social services within their areas to the extent possible. As these local bodies depended mostly upon Government grants, which were subjected to various conditions and restrictions, their activities were too limited to produce any noticeable impact in rural areas, and the real object underlying the formation of local self-governing institutions was not realized.

The proposals of the Planning Commission for the Second Five Year Plan, as accepted by the Parliament, stressed the need for creating within the district a well organised democratic structure of administration in which the village panchayats will be organically linked with popular organisations at a higher level. In such a structure, the functions of the popular body would include the entire general administration and development of the area other than such functions as law and order, administration of justice and certain functions pertaining to the revenue administration. With this background before it, the Balvantray Mehta Committee which was appointed to go into the question of the working of Community Development Projects and National Extension Service held that the Community Development could not progress without responsibility and power which would be possible only under a process of democratic decentralisation from a village to the district level. The Committee further held that Community Development could be real only when the community realises its responsibilities, exercises its necessary powers through its chosen representatives and maintains continuous interest in local administration. With this object in view, they recommended an early establishment of statutory elective local bodies which alone could lead to effective rural development. They also recommended that necessary resources, powers

and authority should be vested in such bodies. In effect, the Balvantray Mehta Committee recommended that if the experiment of democratic decentralisation were to yield maximum results, it was necessary that all the three tiers of the scheme, *viz.*, Village Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Jilla Parishad should be started at the same time and function simultaneously in the whole ditsrict. In May, 1958, the National Development Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee with regard to "democratic decentralisation" and resolved that State Governments should accelerate the process for the establishment of democratic institutions functioning at the village level, at the block or taluka level and district level. The process of democratisation should be completed as speedily as possible. As agreed in the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Development Council in January, 1958, the pattern of democratisation would be worked out by the State Governments in the light of their own conditions and requirements. As a consequence, Government of Gujarat appointed a committee in July 1960 under the chairmanship of the Revenue Minister to study this question and to make recommendations for its implementation. The Committee submitted its report on 31st December, 1960. These recommendations were incorporated in the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 which provided for a three tier system, *viz.*, the gram/nagar panchayats which were already in existence at the lowest level, taluka panchayats at the taluka level and district panchayats at the district level. This democratic decentralisation came to be subsequently called the Panchayati Raj.

THE GUJARAT PANCHAYATS ACT, 1961

The Panchayati Raj was ushered in the districts of Gujarat on 1st April, 1963 when taluka and district panchayats providing the middle tiers of the democratic decentralisation scheme were formally inaugurated. The introduction of the scheme which vests the elected bodies at all levels with wide powers and provides them with necessary funds and trained administrative personnel was completed with the formation of the State Panchayat Council on 1st May, 1963.

Gram Sabha

All adult persons whose names are included in the list of voters maintained for a gram are deemed to constitute gram sabha of the gram. A gram sabha has to hold at least two meetings every year provided that the Sarpanch may, at his option and if required by taluka panchayat or district panchayat, shall call a meeting of the gram sabha. It has to consider annual statement of accounts, administration report, development and other programme of works and the audit notes and replies thereto and any other matter which the taluka panchayat and district panchayat, may require to be placed before the meeting of the gram sabha.

The gram sabha is required to carry out such other functions as provided in the Gujarat Gram Panchayats (Gram Sabha Meetings and Functions) Rules, 1964.

Gram Panchayat/Nagar Panchayat

A gram panchayat is constituted for a local area the population of which is less than 10,000 and a nagar panchayat is constituted for a local area the population of which normally exceeds 10,000 but does not exceed 20,000. Such a local area may be a revenue village, or a group of revenue villages or hamlets forming part of a revenue village or such other administrative unit or part thereof. The number of members of a gram panchayat varies from 9 to 15 and that of a nagar panchayat varies from 15 to 31. Every gram panchayat elects a Sarpanch and Up-Sarpanch from amongst its members and a nagar panchayat elects a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from its own members Provisions are made for reservation of 2 seats for women and one seat for the Scheduled Tribes in every gram and nagar panchayat. In addition to allotment of one reserved seat for Scheduled Castes, more seats are alloted on the basis of their population in the gram/nagar panchayats. Provision is also made for the reservation of the members of the Scheduled Tribes on a population basis.

Duties of a gram/nagar panchayat are specified in the Act. If funds permit, the gram/nagar panchayat is given discretion to take up certain other activities such as education, medical relief, promotion of social, economic and cultural well-being of the inhabitants of its area and arranging public receptions, ceremonies or entertainments within its jurisdiction.

Taluka Panchayat

The taluka panchayat has as its members Sarpanchs of all gram panchayats/Chairmen of all nagar panchayats within the taluka as *ex-officio* members and about one-tenth of the number are elected by Chairmen of co-operative societies within the taluka. It co-opts as members, two women interested in welfare activities pertaining to women and children, two representatives of Scheduled Castes, two of Scheduled Tribes if the population of Scheduled Tribes is more than 5 per cent of the total population of the taluka and two social workers residing in the taluka and of the area having practical experience in respect of matters pertaining to rural development, local members of the Legislative Assembly, Mamlatdar or Mahalkari of the taluka or mahal, Presidents of municipalities in the taluka and elected members of the district panchayat ordinarily residing in the taluka and one of the members of the district and one member from the District Co-operative Union, are its associate members.

Functions of the taluka panchayat as provided in the Act relate to sanitation, health, education, culture, social education, community development, agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, village and small scale industries, co-operation, women's welfare, social welfare, rural housing, pastures and relief against natural calamities. As in the case of gram/nagar panchayats, a number of discretionary functions have been vested in taluka panchayats also.

District Panchayat

The district panchayat consists of (a) *ex-officio* members (Presidents of all taluka panchayats in the district) and (b) elected members. The latter include (i) one member elected by each constituent taluka panchayat and (ii) those elected directly. The nature of direct election to the district panchayat is as follows :

For the purpose of election of members to a district panchayat, the State Government shall divide each district into as many single-member territorial constituencies as there are seats determined under that clause and delimit their extent. Two of the seats intended for directly elected members are reserved for women, one or more seats for Scheduled Castes and one or more seats for Scheduled Tribes, according to population, if it is not less than five per cent. Associate members will include (1) local Members of Parliament, (2) Members of Legislative Assembly, (3) the District Collector, (4) Presidents of all municipalities in the district, (5) One of the Directors from the District Co-operative Bank and (6) One member from the District Co-operative Union. The President and Vice-President of the district panchayat are elected by the members from amongst themselves. Thus, the Collector is made an associate member without a right to vote.

District panchayat is vested with administrative and executive powers. It is responsible for various developmental activities in the district, such as establishing and maintaining dispensaries, public health centres and allied institutions. It has been entrusted with wide range of educational activities. It manages primary education and uses the agency of taluka panchayats to supervise it. It co-ordinates and integrates community development schemes and looks after the development of irrigation, agriculture, animal husbandary, public health and medical relief, social welfare, cottage and small scale industries, collection and maintenance of statistics, etc. All these functions have been transferred on an agency basis to the district panchayat. A large number of executive functions such as registration of co-operative societies, approval of amendment to their bye-laws, calling or extending the period for the calling of annual general meeting of co-operative societies and such other functions as under the Co-operative Societies Act which were exercised by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, have also been transferred to the district panchayat.

Administrative Machinery

In order to carry out various duties and functions entrusted to the district and taluka panchayats under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 and other Acts, a hierarchy of administrative machinery has been devised and experienced personnel transferred to man it. The District Development Officer is the chief executive officer for the district panchayat and so is the Taluka Development Officer at the taluka level. In order to enable them to discharge their executive functions efficiently, these officers are given certain powers which are laid down in sections 123 and 143 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961. With the transfer of many of the departmental schemes and activities, a large number of district level functionaries have also been transferred to the district panchayat. These are Executive Engineer ; (Roads and Buildings), District Health Officer ; Deputy District Development Officer, (Development), District Agricultural Officer, District Animal Husbandry Officer, District Statistical Officer ; Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies ; District Backward Class Welfare Officer, Administrative Officer, Education ; Project Officer, Rural Industries, Executive Engineer (Minor Irrigation), District Family Planning Officer, Administrative Officer (Family Planning) and Accounts Officer.

At the taluka level, the Taluka Development Officer is assisted by the Extension Officers in various fields, *viz.*, panchayats, rural engineering, statistics, agriculture, co-operation, industries, social education, etc. At the village level, there is a Talati-*cum*-Secretary who looks after the collection of land revenue and maintenance of records of the gram panchayats.

Progress in the Establishment of Panchayats

It has been seen previously that the panchayat is the basic unit for development of the community at the village level and provides an important agency for formulation and implementation of programmes of rural betterment. In the district the scheme for establishment of the village panchayats has been taken up since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan and by the end of 1955 there were only 78 panchayats. At the end of 1960-61 the number of panchayats in the district was 481 covering 1,500 inhabited villages and one town 330 of these panchayats were group panchayats covering 1,350 villages and the rest were independent panchayats. After the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act in April, 1963 the number of such panchayats have increased. At the end of 31st March, 1968 there were 492 panchayats including 4 nagar panchayats.

Income and Expenditure of Gram, Taluka and District Panchayats

There were in all 492 gram panchayats and 10 were taluka panchayats in the district in 1968. The income and expenditure of gram, taluka and district panchayats are described below.

STATEMENT XIV·2

Income of Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayat, 1968-69

Sl. No.	Gram Panchayats	Rs.	Taluka Panchayats	Rs.	District Panchayat	Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Government grants, land revenue	14,55,276	Government grants	1,55,06,743	Government grants ..	89,89,238
2	Gifts and donations ..	11,21,102	Statutory grants as land revenue grants	7,19,709	Statutory grants (Education and Medical)	55,96,502
3	Taxes and fees ..	27,40,534	From District Panchayat's own fund	12,20,500	Land revenue	1,22 149
	Total ..	53,16,912	Total	1,74,46,952	Total	1,47,07,889

Source :
District Development Officer, Himatnagar.

From the Statement XIV·2 it will appear that Government grants are given to all three tiers of the Panchayati Raj. The village panchayats, taluka panchayats and district panchayat get their shares in fixed percentage from the land revenue collected. However, there are several distinguishing features. To start with in the case of gram panchayats, gifts and donations amounted to Rs. 11,21,102.

The Sabarkantha District Panchayat, like other district panchayats in the State, has not levied any other taxes directly on the people residing in its jurisdiction. However, the gram panchayats and taluka panchayats have levied various taxes such as house tax, machine tax, light tax, shop-tax, water tax, entertainment tax, education cess, etc. These taxes have been levied to augment their financial resources and supplement the income available in form of the Government grants.

Although the income derived by way of stamp duty, fee collection, etc., in the district does not form the part of taxes, the district panchayat does get its share from this collection and this helps it to supplement its inadequate income. It is, however, true that district panchayat has not yet directly imposed any taxes. On the whole, it is estimated that the various panchayats at different stages, collect approximately Rs. 148 lakhs annually by way of direct and indirect taxes and other forms of income. Statement XIV·3 shows items on which expenditure is incurred by gram panchayats, taluka panchayats and district panchayat.

STATEMENT XIV·3

Expenditure of Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayat, 1968-69

Sl. No.	Gram Panchayats	Rs.	Percentage	Taluka Panchayats	Rs.	Percentage	District Panchayat	Rs.	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Sanitation and Health	11,16,370	26.27	Sanitation and Health	10,47,901	7.28	Sanitation and Health	3,46,505	2.62
2	Public Works ..	12,90,596	30.38	Public Works	8,89,465	6.17	Public Works	26,94,549	20.44
3	Education and Culture	5,71,452	13.45	Education and Culture	74,40,278	51.66	Education and Culture	7,95,975	6.04
4	Welfare of people ..	65,493	1.54	Welfare of people	10,107	0.07	Welfare of people	10,53,106	7.98
5	Administration ..	9,33,142	21.97	Administration	34,67,733	24.08	Administration	52,07,661	39.49
6	Agriculture, preservation of forests and Animal Husbandry ..	69,270	1.64	Agriculture, preservation of forests and Animal Husbandry	5,69,797	3.95	Agriculture, preservation of forests and Animal Husbandry	30,12,851	22.85
7	Village and Cottage Industries ..	29,276	0.68	Village and Cottage Industries	52,958	0.36	Village and Cottage Industries	75,790	0.58
8	Collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records ..	1,64,589	3.87	Collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records	9,25,404	6.43	Collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records	..	..
9	Village Defence .	8,611	0.20						
	Total	**42,48,799**	**100.00**	**Total** ..	**1,44,02,743**	**100.00**	**Total** ..	**1,31,86,437**	**100.00**

The expenditure pattern varies with the level of Panchayati Raj and the development programmes. The gram panchayats spend the largest amount (30·38 per cent) on public works followed by 20·27 per cent on sanitation and health, 21·97 per cent on administration and 13·45 per cent on education and culture. For collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records they spend about 3·87 per cent.

For welfare of people ; agriculture, preservation of forests and animal husbandry, village and cottage industries and village defence they spend 1·54 per cent, 1·64 per cent, 0·68 per cent and 0·20 per cent respectively.

In case of taluka panchayats, the maximum expenditure (57·66 per cent) is spent on education and culture, followed by 24·08 per cent on administration. On sanitation and health, public works, welfare of people, agriculture, preservation of forests and animal husbandry, village and cottage industries and collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records, they spend about 24·26 per cent. In comparison with gram panchayats, they spend less on public works, sanitation and health, welfare of people, village and cottage industries.

In case of district panchayat, the bulk of expenditure (39·49 per cent) is incurred on administration, followed by 22·85 per cent on agriculture, preservation of forest and animal husbandry. About 20·44 per cent is spent on public works. On sanitation and health, education and culture, welfare of people, village and cottage industries it spends 2·62 per cent, 6·04 per cent, 7·98 per cent and 0·58 per cent respectively.

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Education in Early Modern Times

With the predominant population of the Adivasis and other backward classes and the lack of communications, many areas of the district were not easily accessible. As a result, education was confined to the advanced communities of the district. The large areas of the district being under Princely States and petty states, educational activities could not keep pace with the areas under the British rule. Prantij division was formerly a part of Ahmedabad district and Prantij and Modasa towns were active centres of liberal education in the district.

The old *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency* gives a true picture of the condition of education in this region.

"In 1845, school learning beyond the very simplest rudiments of the vernacular language and the least possible smattering of accounts, was almost unknown. Including the chiefs hardly any one could read or write, and the Vanias, seeing them entirely at their mercy, used every opportunity of enriching themselves at their expense. Ten years later (1855), though education had made some progress, it was confined to elementry instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic among the Brahmans, Vanias and about one-half the children of the chiefs."[1] In Mahi Kantha area, Colonel Wallace, the then Political Agent of the Mahi Kantha Agency, started a Vernacular School at Sadra, (now in the Ahmedabad district) in 1849. It was a private institution, and its expense was defrayed from his private purse. Sons of the Chiefs and other well-to-do people received instruction at the school. In 1852, it was taken over by the Government.[2] In the district first primary school for boys was started at Prantij in the year 1856. In 1863-64, a new school was opened at Ahmednagar (now Himatnagar) by the former Idar State.[3]

In the year 1874-75, for the benefits of Bhil students a school was opened at Poshina area of the former Idar State.[4]

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1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 394.
2. Pramroz Sorabji Master, *The Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. 1, (1922), p. 89.
3. *Annual Administration Report of the Bombay Presidency, Mahi Kantha*, (1863-64) p. 56.
4. *Ibid.* (1874-75), p. 9.

In 1878-79 in Mahi Kantha Agency, the schools were under the Director of Public Instruction and Educational Inspector, Northern Division. All the schools were Gujarati schools but in the Talukdari School both Gujarati and English were taught. The Gujarati schools were upto the sixth vernacular standard.[1]

According to the *Gazetteer of Ahmedabad*, in 1878 there were 10 boys' and one girls' school in the Prantij division of the British areas.[2] In 1878, in the Idar State there were only 22 schools. Of these, 19 were for boys and two for girls at Idar and one at Ahmednagar.[3] The English class was attached with the school at Idar in the year 1884-85.

The indifferent and hostile attitude of the Chiefs and the Talukdars is reflected in the *Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha Agency* for 1883-84.

> "Speaking generally, education is backward in Mahi Kantha, the indifference of most of the Talukdars accounts for this. But some were even hostile, partly from penuriousness, but much more from dislike of all innovation."

In the year 1890-91, there were also Bhil schools one each at Bilaria (Biladia) in the Vijaynagar mahal and Lusaria (Lusadia) in Bhiloda taluka.[4] The *Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha Agency* for the year 1892-93 pinpoints difficulties experienced by the Bhil students :

> "The school at Lusaria (Lusadia) progresses very well. Out of a total of 61 boys, 39 were Bhils. Three or four came from such distances that they were obliged to bring food for four or five days with them, they slept in Veranda of the school, and when their supply of food was exhausted, would ask for two days leave to go home to get more."

The number of schools during the year 1893-94 in the Idar State was 36 with an average attendance of 1,523 boys and 61 girls.[5]

Better picture about the state of education and the educational policy of the British can be had from the report for the year 1897-98 of Lt. Col. W B. Ferries, Political Agent of Mahi Kantha Agency.......................

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 394.
2. *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, *Ahmedabad*, (1879), p. 217.
3. *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 412,
4. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha Agency*, 1890-91, p. 4.
5. ENTHOVEN R. E, *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V-B, *Cutch, Palanpur, and Mahi Kantha*, (1905), p. 62.

"the education in the Mahi Kantha is neither flourishing nor progressing. ....The root of the evil is the system of education, it is too literary and not at all practical. It is not possible. I admit in impecunious States such as are grouped under this Agency, to have technical schools or a system of purely industrial education, but it is possible to introduce a curriculum that will supply practical educational wants of the people. The Government standards which are taught in the schools are peculiarly adopted to the preparation of youths who propose to acquire higher education and enter Government service."

"I am persuaded that until something is done to popularise education and make the curriculum suitable to the wants of the people, no progress can be expected. Our energies should be directed to making the path smoother and more enticing to the mass of the people who mainly support the schools but live and die in ignorance ....If the children of the soil and the permanent dwellers in the villages are to be intellectually raised by education and the necessity is very great, no means must be left untried to induce them to send their children to the State Schools."[1]

In the year 1898-99, in other petty states of the areas, there were schools one each at Vaktapur, Prempur, Tajpuri, Kadoli, Rupal, Valasana, Khedawada, Dedhrota, Derol and Ilol in the district.[2]

It deserves to be noted that the primary education was completely free in the Idar State since June 1905. For the secondary education very moderate fees were charged. No fees were charged from sons of agriculturists, female students and depressed class pupils. There were also freeships for other poor and deserving students. With a view to maintaining discipline and enforcing regular attendance, a nominal fine of 3 pies per day for absence without leave was levied in all the schools of the State. Female students, depressed class boys and infants were exempted from this fine.[3]

The control of the schools of the Idar State was with the Mahi Kantha Agency. It was handed over to the Idar State in the year 1906, and the Deputy Educational Inspector, Mahi Kantha had nominal supervision over these schools.[4] The supervision of the State Education Department was entrusted to the Appellate Judge, who, in education matters, corresponded direct with the Deputy Educational Inspector, Mahi Kantha.

During the year 1906 in the Idar State, there were 43 vernacular schools and one Anglo-vernacular school at Idar. Out of these, 12 were managed

1. *Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha Agency*, (1897-98), p. 34.

2. *Ibid.*, (1898-99).

3. *Administration Report of the Idar State* for the year 1931-32, p. 65.

4. Framroz Sorabji Master, *The Mahi Kantha Directory*, Vol. I, (1922), p. 90.

by the Jagirdars and 32 were under the Idar State management. The number of pupils in these schools was 2,597. Besides, there were four Mission Schools. Two new schools for Bhil boys were started during the year at Khalwad and Isri, by the Arya Samaj, Himatnagar. Books, writing materials and clothing were supplied free to the students. These schools had 72 pupils on the roll.[1]

During the year 1918-19 in the Idar State. the number of the State Schools increased to 51, including 5 vernacular girls' schools and one English Middle School teaching upto five standards. The number of students on the roll was 3,080. (2,855 boys and 225 girls). Besides the State Schools, there were also private schools, of these, eight were *pathshalas* and village schools imparting religious and secular instruction to 194 pupils.[2]

During the year 1924-25, the number of State Schools was 53. Of these, 46 were vernacular schools, 4 girls' schools, 1 English School teaching six standards and 2 were Anglo-vernacular schools. The number of students on the roll was 3,176. Of these, 3,009 were boys and 167 were girls. There were 5 Mission Schools with 250 Bhil pupils. No attendance fees were charged at any of the State Schools including those in Jagirdars' villages. Besides the State Schools, 9 Sanskrit Pathshalas, one A. V. School and 2 Madressas functioned in the State.[3]

During the year 1933-34, 45 new schools were opened in the Idar State, and for increasing the efficiency of the teachers, modern lesson classes were organised at the central schools. Number of vocational and agricultural classes were also opened at several places. Emphasis was placed on thorough teaching the mother tongue. For sons of agriculturists, modern agricultural methods and social up-lift work were also taught in the classes.

So far there was general education without any stages. The stage-system of education was introduced in 1933-34. The stages were Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary The curriculum was prepared to suit the new system. The significant feature of the new curriculum was curtailment of one year from each of the primary and junior secondary stages. Further, new subjects which were more useful and vocational-oriented were introduced. The subjects covered were, (1) hand crafts, clay-modelling, basket-making, spinning and weaving, (2) agriculture and gardening, (3) tailoring, carpentry, smithy, photography, fine arts, fret work, etc.

The secondary education was bifurcated. In the first 4 years, vocational subjects were made compulsory. Thereafter, those who wanted to go for

1. *Administration Report of the Idar State* for the year 1906, p. 30.
2. *Ibid.*, 1918-19, p. 18.
3. *Ibid.*, 1924-25, p. 28.

academic career were allowed to prepare for the matriculation examination and for the rest, vocational subjects were taught so that they might go in for suitable jobs after completion of their education.

The total number of educational institutions in the Idar State during the year 1933 was 131. Out of these, one was a high school at Idar, one middle school at Himatnagar, 11 Anglo-vernacular schools, one Agricultural school, 109 primary schools (98 for boys and 11 for girls), 6 Depressed Class Schools, one Sanskrit Pathshala and one was Anjuman-e-Islam.

In addition to these there were 40 private schools with 936 students and these included one Mission School, 2 girls' schools and one widow's home. The total number of girls in the schools excluding private schools was 489. Drawing, knitting, embroidery, sewing and music were taught in all the girls' schools in addition to literary subjects. Cookery was also taught in the higher schools.

From 1932, in order to make agriculture and gardening popular, an agricultural class for sons of agriculturists and primary teachers was opened at Himatnagar from 1932 with a model-farm for the experimental use of the agricultural school.

The number of Antyaj (Harijan) schools was 6 with total number of 163 students.

The total number of students in the various educational institutions both managed by State and private agencies was 8,875 [1]

In the year 1941, the number of primary schools in the district rose to 238, with 15,251 students of which 12,774 were boys and 2,477 girls. On the eve of Independence, it was further increased to 317, and the number of students also rose to 19,500 (16,314 boys and 3,186 girls).

The beginning of the secondary education in the Sabarkantha district may be traced to year 1890 when the first secondary school, Sir Pratap High School was established at Idar. Thereafter few other schools were also opened subsequently. The progress of secondary education was very slow in the district before Independence. On the eve of Independence, there were 9 secondary schools in the district with 2,327 pupils. The secondary education gathered momentum after Independence.

Before Independence and merger, there was no institution imparting post-S. S. C. or higher education in the district.

1. *Administration Report of the Idar State* for the year 1933-34.

Progress of Education after Independence

Year		Primary schools (including Basic schools)	Pupils	Secondary schools	Pupils	Colleges (Arts, Science and Commerce)	Pupils	Technical institutions	Pupils
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1951-52	..	545	44,776	12	2,611	.	..	..	..
1956-57	..	910	75,972	27	4,088	..	..	1	71
1961-62	..	1,158	122,628	47	13,338	6	N. A.	1	293
1966-67	..	1,322	145,201	89	21,274	8	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
1969-70	..	1,376	153,982	134	28,726	10	3,141	2	613

N. A.= Not available

A very remarkable all round progress in the field of education in the district can be seen from the above table. The total number of educational institutions increased from 557 in 1951-52 to 1,522 in 1969-70. The total number of pupils also increased from 47,387 to 1,86,462 during the same period.

GROWTH OF LITERACY SINCE 1951

According to the Census of 1951, there were 91,118 literates in the district of Sabarkantha and formed 13·32 of the total population. Percentage of male literates was then 21·63, while that of female literates 4·78. In 1961, the percentage of general literacy rose to 24·03 per cent, the rise of percentage, to the total population of respective sexes, was 36·20 per cent for males and 11·26 per cent for females. Percentage of literacy to total population by age and sex is given for total/rural/urban areas in the following table.

STATEMENT XV·1

Literacy Percentage by Age-groups, 1961

Age-groups	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All ages	24.03	36.20	11.26	22.32	34.32	9.82	48.02	61.33	32.65
5-14	37 38	50.15	23.38	35.91	49.00	21.61	59.52	66.92	50.90
15-34	29.27	45.89	11.73	26.78	43.34	9 56	61.02	75.40	42.50
35-59	18.08	30.48	4.90	15 98	27.65	3.72	47.08	67.86	22.97
60+	11.34	23.18	1.85	9.80	20.37	1.28	32.50	63.59	9.47
Age not stated	9.18	11.61	5.95	6.84	8.33	4.88	83.33	100.00	50.00

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 14.

Literates among children in the age-group 5-14, constitute 37·38 per cent of whom males account for 50·15 per cent and females 23·38 per cent. The highest literacy among persons, males and females found in the age-group 5-14 in total/rural areas, reveal a new phase of development wherein with the expansion of educational facilities, backward areas of the district have realised the importance of education and the children in the school-going age have started going to school.

LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Literacy

The following statement gives details about the extent of literacy in rural and urban areas of the different talukas of Sabarkantha district, as revealed by the Census of 1961.

STATEMENT XV·2

Rural/Urban Literacy by Sex 1961

Taluka / Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Literates (number)	Per cent of total population	Literate males	Per cent of total male population	Literate females	Per cent of total female population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sabarkantha district ..	T	220,723	24.03	170,226	36.20	50,497	11.26
	R	191,328	22.32	150,102	34.32	41,226	9.82
	U	29,395	48.02	20,124	61.33	9,271	32.65
Idar	T	39,158	25.52	29,626	38.33	9,532	12.62
	R	34,084	23.90	26,176	36.56	7,908	11.14
	U	5,074	46.33	3,450	60.69	1,624	31.68
Khedbrahma ..	R	9,682	13.00	7,668	20.20	2,014	5.51
Vijaynagar ..	R	5,684	18.88	4,794	32.40	890	5.81
Bhiloda	R	18,840	20 76	15,495	33.66	3,345	7.48
Himatnagar ..	T	33,002	29.81	24,595	43.30	8,407	15.60
	R	25,278	26.49	19,470	40.36	5,808	12.31
	U	7,724	50.53	5,125	59 86	2,599	36.64
Prantij . ..	T	41,344	28.63	31,285	42 33	10,059	14.25
	R	32,541	25.94	25,083	39 31	7,458	12.10
	U	8,803	46.27	6 202	61.48	2,601	29.10
Modasa	T	32,329	27.30	24,330	39.48	7,999	14.08
	R	24,535	23.97	18,983	35.72	5,552	12.28
	U	7.794	48.46	5,347	63.06	2,447	32.18
Meghraj	R	6,203	12.33	5,235	20.25	968	3.96
Malpur	R	7,325	19 17	5,952	29.93	1.373	7.49
Bayad	R	27,156	25.22	21,246	37.88	5,910	11.45

Source : *District Census Handbook* 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 15.

The percentage of literacy was quite pronounced in the urban areas. According to the Census of 1961, the highest percentage of general literacy was recorded in the Himatnagar taluka (29·81 per cent) and lowest in Meghraj (12·33 per cent). In the urban areas, the highest percentage of literacy was found in Himatnagar taluka (50·53 per cent) and the lowest in the Prantij taluka (46·27 per cent). The literacy figures for the rural areas for Himatnagar taluka were maximum (26·49 per cent) and the Meghraj taluka had the minimum 12·33 per cent. The highest percentage of literacy in Himatnagar taluka was distributed in the proportion of 43·30 per cent for males and 15·60 per cent for females and the lowest percentage in Khedbrahma taluka 20·20 per cent for males and 3·96 per cent for females in Meghraj taluka. Urban literacy was the highest for males in Modasa taluka (63·06 per cent) and for females in Himatnagar taluka (38·64 per cent). It was lowest for the Himatnagar taluka which returned 59·86 per cent males and 29·10 per cent females in Prantij taluka. In the rural areas, the Himatnagar taluka accounted for the highest percentage of literacy for both the sexes 40·36 per cent for males and 12·13 per cent for females, while the lowest per cent for males was recorded in Khedbrahma taluka 20·20 per cent and for females Meghraj taluka returned 3·96 per cent.

Educational Standards

A true index of educational progress can be had from the figures of different educational levels compiled by the 1961 Census which are reproduced below.

STATEMENT XV·3

Educational Levels in Urban and Rural Areas, 1961

Sl. No.	Educational Levels	Urban			Rural		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Total	61,208	32,812	28,396	857,879	437,412	419,967
1	Illiterate	31,813	12,688	19,125	666,051	287,310	378,741
2	Literate (without educational level)	16,070	10,216	5,854	101,577	78,025	23,552
3	Primary or Junior Basic ..	10,698	7,514	3,184	86,747	69,168	17,579
4	Matriculation or Higher Secondary	2,166	1,959	207	3,004	2,909	95
5	Technical diploma not equal to degree	57	48	9	..	..	..
6	Non-technical diploma not equal to degree ..	1	1	..	..	..	..

STATEMENT XV·3—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Educational Levels	Urban			Rural		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	University degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree ..	236	221	15	..	..	..
8	Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree ..	167	165	2	..	..	..
	(i) Engineering ..	38	38	..	..	..	..
	(ii) Medicine	31	30	1	..	.	..
	(iii) Agriculture ..	12	12	..	..	.	..
	(iv) Veterinary and dairying	1	1	..	..	..	..
	(v) Technology ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(vi) Teaching	1	1	..	.	..	..
	(vii) Others	84	83	1	..	..	..

Source :

(1) *District Census Handbook* 1961, Sabarkantha, p. 105.

(2) Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part II-C, *Cultural and Migration Tables.*

These figures serve as an index to the educational progress, the district has made in recent years. The statement clearly reveals the common pattern of standard of education in urban and rural areas. Generally, the standard of education is lower in the countryside than in the towns. As many as 77·68 per cent of the total rural population was illiterate as against 51·98 per cent for the urban areas. It indicates the better availability of educational facilities in towns rather than in villages. Another significant feature is that in the district, both in urban and rural sectors, those who have passed primary or junior basic stage are comparatively less than those who are literate without educational level.

In recent years, appreciable progress in the field of university and technical education has been made in the district. According to the 1961 Census, in the urban areas, 236 persons received university education or the post-graduate degrees other than technical degrees and 167 persons were reported to have technical qualifications. It is interesting to note that of the persons taking post-S. S. C. courses, 41·44 per cent held technical degrees or diplomas equal to degrees or post-graduate degrees and 58·56 per cent had university degrees or post-graduate degrees other than technical degrees.

Among the technical courses, 'Engineering', 'Medicine' and 'Agriculture' are given preference. Females have also started taking benefits of higher and technical education.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Pre-primary classes of the Balmandir pattern are conducted at several places in the district. Among them Shree Saraswati Balmandir at Modasa is the oldest, having been established in the year 1953. The most of the taluka headquarters and towns of the district have Balmandirs, among them five are important Balmandirs in the district, one each at Talod (Prantij), Kadiadra (Idar), Sathamba (Bayad), Himatnagar and Bayad. Their total number in the district was 72 with 2.926 children in the 1970-71.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

After Independence, provision of free and compulsory primary education gave a great impetus to the spread of primary education in the district. In 1953-54, the Government launched an intensive drive for providing schools to as many villages as possible and adopted the policy of opening one school in every village with a population of 500 and over. As a result of this campaign, in 1960-61. 58·53 per cent of the villages in the district were provided with primary schools.

With the introduction of the Panchayat Raj in Gujarat from 1st April, 1963, primary education, except in authorised municipal areas, has been transferred to the District Panchayat. The District Panchayats discharge its responsibility as regards primary education through their Education Committees. The Education Department appoints Administrative Officers in the District Panchayats. In urban areas, the responsibility for primary education is discharged by the authorised municipalities, which are also given grant in accordance with the rules.

The following statement gives details about the progress made in the field of primary education after the introduction of Five Year Plans in 1951.

Year	Number of primary schools (including basic)	Number of pupils		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1951-52 ..	545	36,732	8,044	44,776
1956-57 ..	910	57,078	18,894	75,972
1960-61 ..	1,095	76,412	32,354	108,766
1966-67 ..	1,322	96,548	48,658	145,201
1970-71 ..	1,376	105,331	56,250	161,581

Source :
Administrative Officer, District Panchayat Sabarkantha.

As can be seen from the above, primary education registered a remarkable progress during the Three Plan periods. The number of primary schools rose from 545 in 1951-52 to 1,095 in 1960-61 and to 1,376 in 1970-71, while the number of pupils increased from 44,776 to 108,766 and to 161,581 during the same period.

Compulsory Primary Education

From 1st June, 1947 in the district, compulsory primary education was introduced under the Bombay Primary Education Act, 1947. In the first stage the age-group covered was 7-8 years, residing in villages with a population more than one thousand. Thereafter, it was introduced by stages to the age-groups 7-9 in the year 1955-56 and 7-10 in 1956-57.

The next stage in the introduction of compulsion is in respect of children in the age-range 7-11 in all places with a population of less than 1,000. A beginning in this direction was made during the year 1956-57 by introducing compulsion in places with a population of 500 to 999 and also in places with a population of less than 500, which had been provided with schooling facilities. By the end of the year 1957-58, all children in the age-range 7-11 were brought under compulsory education.

Basic Education

The main idea behind the basic education is that, education should centre round some form of manual productive work. Children should not get merely book knowledge, but, should also learn some simple craft to inculcate in them a sense of self-reliance, responsibility, initiative, enterprise and resourcefulness. Accordingly, on the eve of Independence, 23 primary schools were converted into basic schools in the district. In 1956, there were 43 basic schools. The number of basic schools rose to 137 in the year 1961, out of which 42 were junior basic and 95 were senior basic. In the year 1970-71, the number of schools increased to 144 (29 junior basic and 115 senior basic). Out of these schools, 9 schools were teaching purely spinning, 94 were teaching spinning and weaving, 39 were kitchen gardening and agriculture, and only 2 were purely card-board modelling and carpentry. The number of students covered under the basic education in the district during 1970-71 was 33,243.

School Buildings

The problem of housing with increasing number of pupils in the schools, is also an important item in development programme. On the eve of Independence, there were 317 primary school buildings in the district. Out of which 204 were owned, 46 rented and 67 were rent-free. For construction of primary school buildings, an intensified programme was initiated during

the First Five Year Plan and continued in the Second and Third Plan periods with much success. The number of school buildings which was 904 at the end of the First Five Year Plan, increased to 1,376 in 1970-71, out of which 944 were owned, 137 rented and 295 were rent-free.

Training Facilities for Primary School Teachers

The expansion of primary education necessitated corresponding expansion of training facilities for teachers in primary and basic schools. No such facility existed in the district before Independence. The first training college for primary teachers for men was established at Kadiadra (Idar) in the year 1951. Thereafter, three more colleges were started, each at Prantij, Akodra (Himatnagar) and Idar. Out of these four colleges, college at Akodra and Idar were for women. The number of trainees in these four colleges was 600 during the year 1970-71. The training college at Prantij was closed in 1971.

Secondary Education

The secondary education constitutes a vital link between the primary and the college education. Broadly speaking, secondary schools are intended to impart education suitable for pupils in the stage of adolescence.

After Independence, progress of secondary education was very rapid in the district. Following statement shows that considerable progress has been made by the district in the secondary education.

Year	Number of schools	Students		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1947 ..	9	2,141	186	2,327
1951 ..	12	2,394	217	2,611
1956 ..	27	3,721	367	4,088
1961 .	47	12,411	927	13,338
1966 ..	89	18,231	3,043	21,274
1969-70 ..	134	23,374	5,352	28,726

Source : Educational Inspector, Sabarkantha.

The above statement shows that number of schools and pupils have progressively increased. It shows a remarkable growth between 1956-1966, when it added 62 schools and 17,186 students, (14,510 boys and 2,676 girls). In the year 1969-70 the number of institutions rose to 134 and students

28,726 (23,374 boys and 5,352 girls). Thus, the number of secondary schools rose from 9 in 1947 to 134 in 1969-70 and students from 2,327 to 28,726 during the same period.

To meet the shortage of trained teachers required for improving the quality of teaching, training colleges for secondary teachers were established at Modasa in 1968 and Daramali (Idar) in the year 1970.

Since 1971, the State Government has liberalized the concessions of free education for the students studying in secondary schools. The Government has decided to raise the income limit for award of full freeship and half freeship from the academic year 1971-72 for standards VIII and IX, from 1972-73 for standards VIII to X and from 1973-74 for standards VIII to XI. Free studentship and half free studentship will be admissible as under.

(i) Full tuition fees are paid to those students, whose parents' total annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 3,600 and half tuition fees are paid to those whose parents' earn between Rs. 3,601 and 4,800.

(ii) Full tuition fees are paid to those students, whose parents or guardians are "agriculturists", as defined in Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 and hold land not in excess of half of the ceiling as prescribed in the Gujarat Agricultural Lands ceiling Act, 1960, and half tuition fees to those students, whose parents or guardians are "agriculturists", who hold land exceeding half of the prescribed ceiling but not exceeding the ¾th of the prescribed ceiling.

(iii) Full tuition fees are paid to those students whose parents or guardians are "agricultural labourers" as defined in the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 and who furnish a certificate to that effect from the Sarpanch of a village Panchayat or the Talati or the President of the taluka Panchayat.[1] According to the declared policy of the Government, secondary education is also made free from the year 1972 in the State.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is a curricular subject in general but a compulsory subject in the secondary schools of the State. At primary level, one period per day is allotted to physical education. Besides, a number of activities are organised to accelerate physical education in the State. The details of these activities and schemes sponsored in the district are described below.

District sports are organised by the District Sports Council. The District Collector is the President, and the Educational Inspector is the

1. Government Resolution, Education and Labour Department, No. EBC-1070-20334/P, dated the 28th May, 1971.

Secretary of the Council. Educational institutions in the district take active part in sports competitions held at taluka, district and the State level.

Sports competitions are held twice (autumn meet and winter meet) every year at the taluka, district and the State level.

District sports competitions were held during the year 1969-70 at Khedbrahma. Winners of the district competitions were sent for State level competitions. In all, 121 students (71 boys and 50 girls) participated at the State level competitions held in the year 1969 at Junagadh.

The Sabarkantha district stood fifth in rank in the athletic competition held at Junagadh. One Adivasi girl of the district stood first in 400 metre running race both in the competitions held at the district level and the State level.

A girl from Dhansura High School is getting first prize for the last three years in the High Jump competition at the State level

A student from the Himat High School was the winner of three-stars, as he stood first during 1968-69 in the National Physical Education Drive held at Gwalior.

Higher Education

There was no institution for higher education in the district before Independence. After the formation of the Gujarat State, in 1960, two colleges at Modasa and Talod were started. Thereafter, one college was started at Himatnagar in 1964 and another at Idar in 1970. A brief description of each college is given as under.

(1) *Shri S. K. Shah and Shrikrishna O. M. Arts, Sir P. T. Science and Shri H. S. Shah College of Commerce, Modasa*

This was the first college to be established in the district at Modasa in 1960 with a view to bringing higher education at the doorsteps of the rural people. The college conducts classes upto post-graduate degree courses in Arts and Science sections. In the Commerce section, the college conducts classes upto the B. Com. degree course. It has its own college building and a hostel with a capacity of 350 students. The number of students on its roll was 545 (444 boys and 101 girls) in the Arts section, 502 (483 boys and 19 girls) in the Science section and 291 (289 boys and 2 girls) in the Commerce section in the year 1970-71. It has a good library with 10,748 books. The college is managed by Shri M. L. Gandhi Higher Education Society, Modasa.

(2) *Sheth H. P. Arts, S. M. Commerce and Smt. S. M. Panchal Science College, Talod, (Prantij taluka)*

The College with Arts and Science sections was established in the year 1960. The Commerce section was started in the year 1970. The college conducts classes upto B. A. degree in Arts, B. Sc. degree in Science and upto F. Y. B. Com. in the Commerce section. The number of students on its roll in the year 1969-70 in the Arts section was 307 (255 boys and 52 girls), and in the Science section 613 (566 boys and 47 girls). In the year 1971-72, 154 boys were in the Commerce section. The college is housed in a rented building. It provides the hostel facilities for the students of Arts, Commerce and Science sections. The college is managed by the Talod Kelavani Mandal. From the year 1970, the Science college was separated.

(3) *The Shivlal Sunkalchand Mehta Arts and Motibhai Makanbhai Patel Commerce College, Himatnagar*

The college was established in the year 1964. It conducts classes upto the B. A. and B. Com. degree courses. The number of students on its roll was 381 (309 boys and 72 girls) in the Arts section and 249 (234 boys and 15 girls) in Commerce section in the year 1969-70. It has its own college building and has a hostel for 25 students. It is managed by the Himatnagar Kelavani Mandal, Himatnagar.

(4) *The Arts and Commerce Collage, Idar*

The college was established in 1970 It conducts classes upto the B. A. and B Com. degree courses. The number of students on its roll was 110 (81 boys and 29 girls) in Arts section and 110 (boys) in the Commerce section in 1970-71. The college is housed in a rented building. It provides the hostel facilities for 25 students. It has a library with 2,240 books. The college is managed by Uttar Sabarkantha Uchcha Kelavani Mandal, Idar.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Before mechanisation of industries, there was hardly any need of institutions for technical and professional education. For such training, as was then required in the economic structure of the time, was imparted through a system of apprenticeship, which trained an individual in the techniques of production, handed down from father to son. With the adoption of modern mechanised means of production, the need for imparting professional and technical education was keenly felt. Such facilities during the pre-Independence days were very meagre. Systematic attempts were, therefore, required to achieve the goal of planned economic development by making increasing provision for scientific and technological studies and research under the Five Year Plans to meet the growing demand for techni-

cally qualified personnel. The important institutions started in the district of Sabarkantha are noted below.

(1) Government Technical-*cum*-Commercial Centre, Modasa, and
(2) Industrial Training Institute, Modasa.

(1) *Government Technical*-cum-*Commercial Centre, Modasa*

This institution was established at Modasa in the year 1955. It is run by the Directorate of Technical Education, Government of Gujarat. It conducts classes for technical and commercial subjects in standards VIII to XI. Number of students on its roll was 350 in the year 1970-71. The institution is housed in its own building.

(2) *Industrial Training Institute, Modasa*

The institute was established in the year 1963, as a Government institute. It conducts various technical courses for (i) electrician, (ii) wireman, (iii) turner, (iv) fitter, (v) machinist, (vi) pattern-maker, (vii) welder, (viii) diesel mechanic, (ix) rural workshop mechanic and (x) engine-*cum*-electric mechanic.

During the year 1970-71, there were 263 students on its roll with 19 members on the teaching staff. The institution is housed in its own building.

COURSES IN COMMERCE

Commercial education in the State is provided through three types of institutions, (1) Colleges of Commerce, (2) Commercial high schools or Multipurpose schools with commerce as a course, and (3) Commercial institutions.

The colleges of commerce are affiliated to Universities and provide a three years' degree course after the secondary stage. There are four such colleges in the district, *viz*., (i) Shri Hiralal Shivlal Shah College of Commerce, Modasa, (ii) the Arts and Commerce College, Idar, (iii) the M. M. Patel Commerce College, Himatnagar, and (iv) S. M. Commerce College, Talod.

The commercial high schools and multipurpose schools provide a pre-vocational course of commercial education, alongwith general education. The commercial institutions provide instructions in such courses as short-hand, type-writing, accountancy and secretarial practice. The course extends over four years, standards VIII to XI and has general popularity as a multi-purpose course in secondary schools. There are four such schools in the district teaching commercial subjects. They are listed below.

(1) Sir Pratap High School, Idar

(2) Shri Himat High School, Himatnagar

(3) Shri C. J. High School, Vadali, (Idar)

(4) Sheth B. J. High School, Jadar, (Idar)

FEMALE EDUCATION

The progress of female education in the district was very slow before Independence. This was because the district was inhabited by a large number of backward and tribal people. The people generally did appreciate the value of education. One of the factors responsible for reluctance of the parents to send their daughters to the school was absence of separate educational institutions for girls. As years passed, the number of such schools and students went on increasing. In the district, the first primary girls' school was started at Prantij in the year 1859. In the year 1878-79, there were three girls' schools, two at Idar and one at Ahmednagar (Himatnagar) in the Idar State. But in 1900-01, the number of schools rose to 8 in the Idar State. There was a girls' school at Ambaliara in 1910-11 and one girls' school was at Malpur in 1914.

In the year 1931, the number of girls' schools rose to 14 in the district. In the same year the number of girl students in the separate girls' schools was 880. The total number of girl students in the district was 1,564.

On the eve of Independence, in the year 1947, the number of girls in primary education was 3,186. Out of these, 1,530 were in mixed schools and 1,656 girls in 23 girls' schools.

The progress of female education in the primary section was accelerated, after Independence. This can be clearly seen from the following statement.

Year		Number of girls' schools and students		Number of girls studying in mixed schools	Total number of girl students in primary schools
		(a)	(b)		
1951-52	..	26	2,976	5,068	8,044
1956-57	..	27	4,325	14,569	18,894
1960-61	..	44	7,288	25,066	32,354
1966-67	..	45	9,748	38,910	48,658
1970-71	..	44	9,900	45,350	55,250

Source :

Administrative Officer, District Panchayat, Himatnagar.

The analysis of the above data shows that the number of girls' schools rose from 26 in 1951-52 to 44 in 1970-71 and the number of girl students from 2,976 to 9,900 during the same period. In 1951-52, there were 5,068 girls studying in mixed schools. With the progress in education, the number increased to 45,350 in 1970-71. Along side, the number of girl students in the primary schools also rose from 8,044 to 55,250 during the two decades from 1951 to 1971. These facts indicate that the former reluctance of the parents to send their girls to the mixed schools is gradually vanishing. Still, however, the separate primary schools for girls hold the fort.

In the field of secondary education, the progress was comparatively less. One of the factors responsible for this was the absence of separate secondary schools for girls in the district. In the earlier stage, separate schools for girls were started only in the primary sector. As such, by and large, girls discontinued their studies after completion of the primary stage. Early marriage was also an important factor for discouraging girls taking secondary education. In the year 1921, the number of girls taking education in the secondary schools was 63 only. It was increased to 186 in the year 1947 and the number further rose to 927 in the year 1961. Upto 1965, there was no separate high school for girls in the district. Rao Saheb V. G. Patel Girls' High School, Dhansura was the first girls' secondary school started in the year 1965 in the district. In the year 1969-70, the number of girls' high schools rose to 5 which were located at Dhansura (Modasa), Himatnagar, Idar, Anera-Akodra (Himatnagar) and Modasa. The total number of girls studying in these 5 high schools was 734, while 4,618 girls were in the co-educational institutions. The total number of girls taking secondary education was 5,352 during the same year. At the university level, very lately girls started taking interest. In the year 1970 the number of girls in Arts, Science and Commerce Colleges was 285.

To meet the shortage of female teachers, two female training institutions for primary teachers, have been established one at Akodra (Himatnagar taluka) and the other at Idar. The institution at Akodra is under the management called Visvamanglam, Anera-Akodra and that at Idar is run by the Government.

Ashram Schools

The importance of Ashram schools for the educational development of the tribals needs no emphasis, as they aim at inculcating in the minds of Scheduled Tribes children the fundamentals of cultural, social, moral and hygienic values. These are residential schools and generally situated away in hills and forests in the tribal tracts. They have agriculture as the main craft, while spinning and weaving are subsidiary crafts.

These Ashram schools have proved extremely useful amongst the measures adopted for providing educational facilities to the Scheduled Tribes. These schools provide free lodging, boarding and medical facilities.

In 1969-70, there were 7 Ashram schools in the district. The statement given below details of these Ashram schools.

Sl. No.	Location	Taluka / Mahal	Year of establishment	Management	Number of students, (1969)		
					Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Ambamahuda	Khedbrahma ..	1954	Seva Niketan, Khedbrahma	90	30	120
2	Atarsumba ..	Vijaynagar ..	1954	,,	80	39	119
3	Demta ..	Khedbrahma ..	1959	..	90	30	120
4	Khedbrahma	Khedbrahma ..	1958	Gujarat Harijan Sevak Sangh, Ahmedabad	73	22	95
5	Varthali ..	Meghraj	1962	Adivasi Seva Samiti, Shamlaji	64	28	92
6	Isari ..	Meghraj	1966	,,	50	32	82
7	Hajipur ..	Himatnagar ..	1969	Visvamanganglam,-Anera-Akodra	11	5	16

EDUCATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Welfare of the physically handicapped has now become one of the important activities of the Directorate of Social Defence. Attempts are being made to train them in such a way that they are able to stand on their own legs and live as useful members of society. At present, there is one school at Modasa for the deaf and dumb children in the district. It is called Shri Vadilal Hiralal Gandhi Deaf Dumb School, Modasa. It was established in the year 1968. At present it is run by the Lions Club, Modasa. The number of students benefited by this institution was 33 in the year 1970. A hostel is attached to the school.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

The objective of social education is not confined only to the spread of literacy, but it aims at preparing the people for responsible citizenship. It helps an individual citizen to participate with understanding in the activities around him to develop his latent faculties and create in him, a healthy, scientific and civilized outlook towards life and his surroundings.

Efforts are made to promote adult education in the district. The progress achieved so far is as follows.

Sl. No. 1	Year 2	Number of social education classes 3	Adult made literates 4
1	1966-67	160	2,027
2	1968-69	151	3,324
3	1969-70	53	1,050
4	1970-71	93	1,964

Oriental Education

In the Idar State, there were the Pathshalas imparting the Sanskrit education. According to the *Administration Report of the Idar State, 1912-13*, there were 4 Sanskrit Pathshalas. In 1924-25, the number rose to 9. With spread of the modern education, Pathshala activities went to decreasing. On the eve of Independence, there was only one Pathshala, Shri Haridas Liladhar Danthi, Shree Kadiadra Brahmkarmodai Vaidik Sanskrit Pathshala at Kadiadra. It was established in the year 1912. It is the only institution in the district imparting Sanskrit education at present.

Education Among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes

As stated before the district has a large population of the Scheduled Tribes and Castes. The following statement reveals the state of literacy and educational standards of the Backward Classes in the district in 1961.

	Total		Rural		Urban	
Educational Levels 1	Percentage of general population 2	Percentage of total Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 3	Percentage of general population 4	Percentage of total Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 5	Percentage of general population 6	Percentage of total Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 7
Total ..	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Illiterate ..	75.97	87.18	77.68	89.35	51.98	70.55
Literate (without educational level)	12.81	6.47	11.85	5.67	26.25	14.64
Primary or Junior Basic ..	10.61	6.28	10.12	4.91	17.48	14.01
Matriculation and above and Technical . ..	0.61	0.07	0.35	0.07	4.29	0.80

Source : Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part V-A, *Tables on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*, pp. 232, 244, 259, 267.

The statement reveals low level of literacy among Backward Classes especially among those living in rural areas. Out of a 206,571 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes persons, only 26,488 or 12·82 per cent were literates. It seems that most of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students come upto the primary or junior basic stage. Those who have passed the S. S. C. Examination and above or under some technical training, constitute a very small percentage of their total population.

Their women-folk are mostly illiterate, as out of a total female population 102,151 souls, only 2,899 or 2·84 per cent were literate upto primary or junior basic stage.

SPREAD OF EDUCATION AMONG THE BACKWARD CLASSES

The pioneering work for the spread of education among the Backward Classes was done in the district by a few devoted and selfless workers who were inspired by new awakening brought about by the entry of Mahatma Gandhiji in the Indian public life. Before the advent of freedom, the Idar State had taken interest in Harijan education, and established one Harijan primary school at Idar. Subsequently this school was handed over to the Gujarat Harijan Sevak Sangh, Ahmedabad in 1949. Thereafter, it was converted in to the Backward Class hostel. Harijan welfare work was initiated by Shri Mathuradas L. Gandhi of Modasa and other devoted workers. One Backward Class hostel was started by them in the year 1949 at Prantij.

Adivasi welfare work was organised during the Princely States, by the State and devoted workers. For the benefit of Bhil students a school was opened at Poshina area of Idar State in the year 1874-75.[1] There were also two Bhil Schools each at Biladia (Vijaynagar) and Lusadia (Bhiloda) in the year 1890-91.[2] In the year 1917-18,[3] there were 4 Mission Schools in which 169 Bhil boys were taking education in Idar State. Similarly, the Adivasi welfare work was also organised by Sarvodaya Yojana of Bombay State at Shamlaji. At present, the following institutions carry on educational and welfare activities for the Backward classes in the district :

(1) The Adivasi Seva Samiti, Shamlaji (Bhiloda)
(2) The Seva Niketan, Khedbrahma
(3) The Gujarat Harijan Seva Sangh, Ahmedabad
(4) The Visvamanglam, Anera-Akodra. (Himatnagar)
(5) The Vividh Bharati, Poshina (Khedbrahma), etc.

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1. *Annual Administration Report of the Bombay Presidency, Mahi Kantha*, 1874-75, p. 9.

   Annual Administration Report of the Mahi Kantha Agency, 1890-91, p. 4.

3. *Administration Report of Idar State* for the year, 1917-18.

After Independence, realising the need of leveling up the Backward Classes, the Bombay State, in the year 1951, constituted a separate Department. The Backward Class children were provided with tuition fees, examination fees, scholarships, hostel facilities, etc. These educational concessions which were provided in the Bombay State are still continued in the Gujarat State after bifurcation.

A brief description of some of the important schemes designed to promote education among these disadvantageous classes is given below.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

The primary education is free for all classes of people. Scholarships are awarded to Backward Class students, studying in standards V to XI and in other technical and professional courses, who secure 40 per cent or more marks in the last annual examination and whose parents' annual income does not exceed Rs. 6,000. The Backward Class pupils receiving secondary education are exempted from payment of tuition fees according to income. Full tuition fees are paid to those students whose parents' total annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 3,600 and half tuition fees to those whose parents' earn between Rs. 3,601 and 4,800. Backward Class students are granted examination fees for the S. S. C. Examination, if their parents' annual income does not exceed Rs. 3,600.

For the post-S. S. C. Examination courses, the Government of India awards scholarships to the Backward Class students through the Directorate of Social Welfare. The rates of scholarships range from Rs. 27 to Rs. 75 per student. To facilitate their admission in various courses, Government has reserved certain percentage of seats for them in various educational institutions, higher and technical.

Students of 505 primary schools in *adivasi* areas are given free Midday meals under the scheme of CARE in co-operation with Panchayats and Government.

HOSTEL FACILITIES

It was felt necessary to provide hostel facilities to induce children of the Backward Classes to take up higher education. By 1970, there were 24 such hostels for the Backward Classes located as under.

	Number of Hostels	Total strength
(A) (1) Scheduled Castes hostels for boys	6	236
(2) Scheduled Tribes hostels for boys	9	520
(B) (1) Scheduled Castes hostels for girls	2	72
(2) Scheduled Tribes hostels for girls	6	195
(C) Nomadic Tribe hostel for boys	1	23
Total	24	1,046

In addition to these there were 7 Ashram schools in the district, discussed elsewhere in the chapter.

In these hostels and Ashram schools, students are provided free lodging, boarding and other facilities.

Industrial training facilities are also provided to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes students in production-*cum*-training centre at Khedbrahma conducted by the Co-operative Department. Such facilities are also available at Himatnagar, Agiya, Vijaynagar and Meghraj.

In the year 1969-70, Rs. 6·97 lakhs were given as financial assistance towards tuition fees, examination fees and scholarships to Backward Class students as under.

	Amount Rs.	Number of students
SCHEDULED CASTES		
Tuition fees	142,803	1,911
Examination fees	6,135	303
Scholarships	160,551	3,716
SCHEDULED TRIBES		
Tuition fees	173,751	2,307
Examination fees	7,530	372
Scholarships	206,380	5,468

Over and above the educational concessions, the Backward Class hostels and Ashram schools are provided grant-in-aid by the Government.

EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Before Independence, the Government and the Chiefs were solely responsible for promoting modern education. After Independence, conditions began to change, public spirited and enthusiastic persons formed educational societies to promote education in the district. The private agencies have predominated in the field of Secondary Education in former Bombay State. The general policy of the Government of Gujarat is that Secondary Education should be conducted by private agencies with financial assistance from the State. The activities of some of the leading educational societies in the district are given below.

(1) *The Idar Prajakiya Vidyottejak Samiti, Idar*

The Idar Prajakiya Vidyottejak Samiti which was formerly a Vidyottejak Fund was established in the year 1907, with a view to promoting educational activities in the area. It conducts two high schools (1) Sir Pratap High School and (2) Sheth C. K. Saraswati Mandir (a Girls' School).

Sir Pratap High School formerly was a taluka school, started in the year 1890 with an English class. By stages, more classes were added to the school. To over-come, the shortage of space, the late Maharaja Kesharisinhji helped greatly. The school was renamed as MacNaughten School in the year 1900. In 1901, in the memory of His Highness late Shri Kesharisinhji, a fund was raised with the help of which Keshari boarding was started in 1907. To meet the pressure of pupils another boarding was started with the co-operation of the Idar Prajakiya Vidyottejak Fund. In 1928, the school became full-fledged high school and was affiliated to the Bombay University. In 1928, the MacNaughten School was renamed as Sir Pratap High School. In 1949, the Idar State was merged into the Bombay State, and Government decided that secondary schools should be conducted by private agencies. The Idar Prajakiya Vidyottejak Fund was converted into a Vidyottejak Samiti in the year 1950. The management of Sir Pratap High School was handed over to the Samiti in the year 1953. The School is a multipurpose institution with agriculture and commercial bias.

Another school under the management of the Samiti is Sheth C. K. Saraswati Mandir, a girls' High School at Idar, which was established in 1967.

The number of students studying in the both these institutions was 1,200, in 1970.

(2) *The Modasa Education Society, Modasa*

The Modasa Education Society was established in the year 1919. It was registered as a public trust in 1953. The object of the society is to advance the cause of education, primary, secondary, higher, commercial and technical. It conducts two high schools, *viz.*, (1) the Modasa High School and (2) the Sarvodaya High School at Modasa.

The Modasa High School, which was formerly Anglo-vernacular school teaching upto standard IV, was established in the year 1896, and was run by the Mahajan with co-operation of the Modasa Municipality. In 1919, the Modasa Education Society took over the management of the school from its predecessor. There were then 82 students in the school. In 1922, it developed into a full-fledged high school and got affiliated to

the Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad. In 1926, it was affiliated to the Bombay University. In 1955, the high school became a multipurpose high school with technical and commercial bias. From the year 1965, the high school was split up in two schools (1) the Modasa High School and (2) the Sarvodaya High School. The technical subjects are taught in the Modasa High School and the commercial subjects are taught in the Sarvodaya High School.

In the year 1970-71, the number of students in the Modasa High School was 1,021 and in the Sarvodaya High School was 578. These high schools have their own hostel.

(3) *The Talod Kelavani Mandal, Talod*

The Mandal was established in the year 1942, with a view to organising and promoting educational activities in the district. In 1945, Shri Chunibhai Desaibhai Patel High School at Talod was started by the Mandal. The total number of students on its roll was 1,500 in the year 1970-71.

(4) *The Adivasi Seva Samiti, Shamlaji*

Before Independence and during the period of State regime, the movement for ameliorating the condition of Harijans and Adivasis did not take deep roots because the rulers were reluctant for encouraging such activities. But Shri Narsibhai Bhavasar started his activity in the Adivasi areas and opened primary schools at different places in the Tribal areas and conducted a number of adult education classes for the Adivasis.

The Adivasi Seva Samiti, Shamlaji, was established by the devoted worker, Shri Mathuradas Gandhi of Modasa popularly known as 'Dada'. at Shamlaji in the year 1948.

The management of the Sarvodaya Yojana of Bombay State was also handed over to this Samiti.

The following institutions are under the Seva Samiti.

(i) *The Post-basic School*

The Sarvodaya Vinay Mandir. Modasa

(ii) *Ashram Schools and Hostels*

(1) The Sanskar Kendra-Kumar Chhatralaya,

(2) The Eklavya Ashram School

(3) The Kasturba Kanya Ashram

(4) The Kamala Nehru Chhatralaya

(5) The Mira Kanya Chhatralaya

(6) The Vinoba Ashram, Varthali

(7) The Valmiki Ashram, Isari

(iii) *Balwadis*

There are six Balwadis in Meghraj taluka each at Meghraj, Ramgadhi, Behdaj, Kasana, Rellawada, Gorwada, and only one at Khiloda (Bhiloda taluka).

The number of students in all these institutions taking education are 714 (356 boys and 358 girls).

This institution also conducts 25 primary schools of the Sarvodaya Yojana in the Shamlaji areas and 35 in the Meghraj areas, 9,306 children are taking education in these schools.

(5) *Shri Himatnagar Kelavani Mandal, Himatnagar*

The Mandal was established in the year 1952, with a view to promoting educational activities in the district. The various educational institutions ranging from the primary to collegiate level are under its management, *viz.*,

(i) Shri Himat High School, Himatnagar was established in the year 1942. Since 1961, the commercial subjects are taught in this high school. In the year 1970-71, the total number of students on its roll was 1,001.

(ii) The primary section from standard IV was started in Himat High School from 1962 with 313 students.

(iii) Shri Shivlal Shankalchand Mehta Arts and Shri Motibhai Makanbhai Patel Commerce College were started in the year 1965 by the Mandal. The number of students in the Arts College was 402, and in the Commerce College 249 in the year 1970-71.

(6) *The Jadar Vibhakiya Kelavani Mandal, Jadar*

The Mandal was established in 1954, with a view to providing educational facilities in the area. It conducts Shri B. J. High School and Shri

B. J. Primary section. The high school was established in the year 1951, it is a multipurpose school. In 1954, its management was handed over to the Mandal. In 1970-71, the total number of students in the high school was 277 and in the Shri B. J. Primary section was 125.

A Backward Class hostel is also conducted by the Mandal.

(7) *Visvamanglam, Anera-Akodra (Himatnagar taluka)*

This institution was established in 1959. Shri Govindbhai Raval and Smt. Sumatiben Raval are the founders of this institution.

Under its management there are following institutions, *viz.*, (i) Stree Adhyapan Mandir (A female training institution), (ii) the Vinaya Mandir (Agriculture School), (iii) the Post-Basic Kanya Vidyalaya (iv) the Kanya Chhatralaya (Girls' hostel), and (v) 10 Balwadis.

Elementary training regarding Agriculture, Cattle breeding, Home science, Horticulture, Ambar Charkha, etc., are given in above institutions.

400 students (225 girls and 175 boys) are taking training in these institutions.

(8) *Vividh Bharati, Poshina*

This institution was established in the year 1962 by Shri Hirubhai Jariwala.

The institution conducts the following educational activities in the Khedbrahma taluka.

(i) The Nav Nirman Vidyalaya, (Post-Basic School) Poshina,

(ii) The Sanskar Vidya Mandir, (High School) Agiya,

(iii) The Sanskar Chhatralaya, Agiya,

(iv) The Arwali Chhatralaya, Poshina,

(v) The Chaitanya Balwadi, Poshina and

(vi) The Gunbhakhari Balwadi, Gunbhakhari.

More than 233 students take benefit of these institutions.

For construction of schools and hostels buildings the institution received grant-in-aid from the Swiss-Aid-Abroad.

(9) *Sevaniketan, Khedbrahma*

This institution was established in the year 1965, by Shri Dahyabhai Naik of the Bhil Seva Mandal, Dohad.

Formerly, the Bhil Seva Mandal, Dohad, conducted the Ashram schools and Chhatralayas for Adivasi in near by areas of Khedbrahma and Vijaynagar talukas of this district. After decentralisation of the Bhil Seva Mandal, these schools and Chhatralayas are brought under the Sevaniketan Society.

The institution conducts the Ashram schools each at Atarsumba (Vijaynagar), Demti and Ambamahuda (Khedbrahma) in the district.

(10) *The Sabarkantha Kalyan Ashram, Dhansura*

This institution was established in the year 1969, with a view to promoting the educational activities in the tribal area of the district. The institution has established a hostel at Pal village (Vijaynagar taluka) where students are provided free lodging, boarding and other facilities. The number of students in this institution was 11 during the year 1971.

CULTURE

Literary Activities—Literary activities which developed in this district, consisted mainly of bardic literature. The bards were competent story-tellers and learned by rote historical events and mythological stories. The themes of their stories, were love, valour, chivalry, sacrifice and heroism. They were composed in bardic prosody. The folklore literature of the Sabarkantha district dates back to ancient times of the Mahabharat. It is a folklore that Chyavan Rishi performed *tapas* near Bhavnath or Bhuwaneshwar Mahadev in Desan in the Bhiloda taluka.

About the literary activities in the district, sufficient data are not available. Whatever, information is available, it may be said to be recent. However, these activities may be divided into 3 parts, *viz.* :

(1) The Charani literature,

(2) The Vaishnav literature and

(3) The modern literature.

They are dealt with below.

The Charani Literature—All literary activities in the beginning were restricted to poetry and devotional songs. That literature was in the Charani style. A number of Charan poets flourished in the court of Idar. The history of the Kings of Idar can be traced from the Charani literature. Some bards have also described the bravery of Jagannath Rao of Idar, in the Charani verses.[1]

Jogidas Charan of Kawavu, lived during the reign of kings Arjundas and Gopinath in the 17th century. Long verses were made after the death of Maharaja Gambheersingh (1791-1855) of Idar, his fourteen queens became *satees* after him. That episode has been described at length in the Charani literature.[2]

Shridhar Vyas was a great poet. He belonged to Idar. He wrote an epic 'Ranamalla Chhand' narrating the exploits of Ranamalla. It depicts the history of the battles fought by Ranamalla of Idar against the Subedar of Gujarat appointed by the Emperors of Delhi, during the second half of the 14th century.[3] His another works 'Bhagavati Bhagavata' is also called 'Ishwari Chhand' giving the story of Durga-saplashati.

Abdul Raheman (Meer Raheman) was a Muslim poet probably of Modasa, who lived not later than the 14th century. He wrote 'Sandeshak-Rasa' a '*duta-kavya*', which is a song of nature depicting beauty of cycle of seasons (six seasons).[4]

The Vaishnav Literature—Modasa is a leading centre of cultural and literary activities in the district. A number of the scholars of the Pushti Morg, such as Mathuradas Laljibhai Gandhi, Mohanlal V. Gandhi, Punamchand Doshi, Krishnalal Maganlal Butala, Chimanlal M. Vaidya flourished at Modasa. These Vaishnav devotees came from different walks of life such as teachers, social workers and businessmen. Generally, their literary works revolved round the religious themes and were mostly written in verse, though there were some writings in prose also. This is evidenced by the translations and commentaries of the Vaishnav religious books such as the 'Shrimad Bhagvat' the 'Baso Bavan Vaishnav', 'Vedant Tatparya' and the 'Sajjansinhno Sanyas'. The religious teachers used Kirtan and Akhyan as a medium to enlighten the people. These fostered religious sentiments among the people. Though, the literary works were mainly religious centering round the Vaishnav cult, it was not completely devoted

1. FORBES A. K., *Ras Mala*, Vol. I, 1924, p. 421-423.
2. *Ibid.*, Vol. II, 1924, p. 201-206.
3. GANDHI BHOGILAL AND GANDHI RAMANLAL H., *Purusharthni Pratima*, 1959. p. 48.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 60.

to mundane interests historical narratives (Ladat Geeto) and stories were also written during the period.

The Kirtankars singing Akhyanas to spread the Vaishnav cult made valuable contribution for popularising different poetic forms. It is such didactic literature that has blended religious philosophy with culture, Besides the Akhyanas, poetic forms like Rasa, Prabandh and Varta were also popular. This literature also produced an appreciable amount in *pada* style which is a short poetic form similar to lyric. It has been specially used to sing songs about the Krishna Leela. The accounts of the leading Vaishnav writers and their works are described below.

Shri Mathuradas Laljibhai Gandhi (1875-1957)—Shri Mathuradas had a chequered career. In the beginning of his career he was a primary school teacher, a Kamdar in a small State and a businessman in Bombay. Thereafter, he joined the freedom struggle since 1920. He built up several social, educational and political institutions of Modasa, till he died at the age of 82. His 'Lok Geeta' is a translation in verses of 'Shrimad Bhagvat Geeta'. 'Shodash Granth' is also another translation in verses. 'Shree Krishna Jeevan Darshan' the collection of poems was written by him and 'Ladat Geeto' were composed by him in jail during 1930.[1]

Shri Chunilal Laljibhai Gandhi (1877-1968)—Shri Chunilal Gandhi was a younger brother of Shri Mathuradas Gandhi. He was a devout Vaishnav. He was a school teacher. He taught religion and theosophy in the Mahajan Mahila Mandir at Modasa. He had published 13 books on the Pushti Marg. He edited the following books.

(1) Samanya Dharma Ane Sachun Kartavya
(2) Goras Khand, Parts 1 to 6, (Kirtan-Katha)
(3) Seva Man Jashodaji-no-Bhav

Shri Maganlal Laljibhai Gandhi (1890-1958)—Shri Maganlal Gandhi was a younger brother of Mathuradas Gandhi. He started his career as a school teacher. He was a Vaishnav. He was good at composing verses. His book 'Shree Gokulesh Dhol' contains Bhajans. He published in Gujarati (1) 'Gokuleshjinu Jeevan Charitra', Parts I and II, (2) 'Shree Gokulesh Dhol', (3) 'Shri Vithalesh Dhol', Parts I and II and (4) Chitta Chintaneeka.'

Shri Mohanlal V. Gandhi (1880-1950)—Shri Mohanlal V. Gandhi was born in Modasa. He obtained the degrees of B. A. and LL. B. between 1910 and 1915. He was a scholar of Pushti Marg. He founded the

1. *Apani Pracheen Sanskriti* and *Vaibhav Shali Bharat*, are two of his unpublished books.

Modasa Education Society in 1919 and was its first President. He read the religious literature of all religions. He established 'श्री शुद्धाद्वैत संसद् ।' a body of followers of the Vaishnavas which has published more then seventy books. The 'Anugraha' a monthly was also published by it. He started free classes and preached the doctrines of the Pushti Marg. He started the Brotherhood Mandal, the Brotherhood Pustakalaya and the monthly 'Suvanchhana'.

He published a few poems and Gazals under his pen-name 'Parinda'. He gave lectures on ethics, religions, politics, etc. He published nine books in Gujarati including (1) 'Prem Swarup Shri Krishna', (2) 'Rahasya Goonjan' and (3) 'Jeevan par Prakash' which are translations from English. His other works are 'Hindnun Rajya Tantra', 'Pashu Manthi Dev', 'Sadhunee Atma Katha'. 'Sajjansinhno Sanyas' is a translation of the story of Tolstoy.

Mulshanker Keshavram Shastri (1900-1934)—Of Vadali was a Shastri in Sanskrit. He had published 'Shri Bhagwat Praveshika' and 'Kamandalu' a collection of articles. He taught religion as a missionary.

Punamchand Sankalchand Doshi (b. 1900 A. D.)—Of Modasa is a Vaishnav and interested in religious activities He was a teacher in the Modasa High School. He had edited magazines called the 'Anugraha' and the 'Aroon'. He published (1) 'Virah Geeta' a poetic translation of 'Vijnapati', (2) 'Baso Bavan Vaishnav' Parts I, II and III--translation from Brij Bhasha, (3) 'Seva Sudha', (4) 'Vraj Vilas', (5) 'Vallabh Ras Sudha' and (6) 'Char Geeto'.

Shri Krishnalal Maganlal Butala (b. 1908 A. D.) is a Commerce graduate. He belongs to Modasa. He was Private Secretary to Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas and in that capacity he prevailed upon the latter to give donations for schools and colleges in the Sabarkantha district. He has published translations of 'Krishna Karnamrita', 'Prem Bhakti Sahityaman Shri Radhaji' and 'Vedanta Tatparya'.

Shri Chimanlal Maganlal Vaidya (b. 1910 A. D.) was born in Modasa. He published the journal 'Prabhakar' an annually. He established Shri Modasa Vaishnav Mandal; and organised festivals and staged Vaishnav-plays. He edited the magazines called the 'Anugraha' the 'Venoo' and the 'Venoodhar'. He collected about three hundred manuscripts of ancient Gujarati and Hindi literature pertaining to the Vaishnav Sampradaya. He has published 36 books including biographies and stories about the Pushti Marg. Some of them are (1) Shri Maha Prabhuji, (2) Shri Gopinathji, (3) Muslim Vaishnav, (4) Shri Gokulesh Subodh Varta Sudha, containing 189 religious stories, (5) Bharmar Geeta, (6) Vishmi Sadina Gurjar Pushti Lekhanko, containing 150 life-sketches are some of his publications.

For young followers of the Pushti Marg he has published 'Vaishnav Bal Vachan Mala', 'Vaishnav Sandhya', 'Venoo' and 'Vaishnav Path Bhajanmala'.

Besides Vaishnav writers, there were also Jain Sadhus who composed religious Rasas and metrical episodes in old Gujarati in the district. One Sadhu named Dayaram, who composed philosophical songs was said to have resided at Idar.

Sabarkantha district also produced a number of Sanskrit Scholars, namely, Shri Ganpatishankar Shastri, a Sanskrit scholar well-versed in astrology. The late Gaurishankar Vyas of Bolundra, the elder son of Shri Krishnaram Vyas, late Durgashankar Shastri Mudetikar, Shri Narmadashankar Vyas and Shri Bhavanishankar are also known *pundits* in the district. Shri Kapildev Sharma and Professor Rushiraj Sharma, sons of the late Chunilal Harishankar Sharma Agnihotri are well-versed in Sanskrit. Professor Rushiraj and Dr. Bhagvati Prasad Pandya of this district are not only Sanskrit scholars, but are also well-versed in the techniques of the modern collegiate education.

THE MODERN LITERATURE

Modern Gujarati literature also had its Votaries at the Sabarkantha district in a number of men of letters who, as will be seen presently, have made outstanding contribution to the enrichment of the Gujarati prose and poetry, novels, short stories, journalism, philosophy, religion, etc. But many of them, had to choose a broader field outside, as Sabarkantha was too small a field for the cultivation and development of their literary talents.

Shri Umashanker Jethalal Joshi (b. 1911 A. D.), renowned poet not only of Gujarat but of the whole country belongs to village Bamana, Bhiloda taluka. He was Vice-Chancellor, Director of the School of Languages and Literature, and Professor of Gujarati in the Gujarat University. His services to the Gujarati literature are meritorious. He has written number of poems, short stories, plays, essays and criticisms. 'Nisheeth', 'Gangotri', 'Vishva Shanti', 'Atithya', 'Pracheena', 'Vasant Varsha' and 'Goole Poland' are collections of his poems. 'Akho Ek Adhyayan', 'Kavita Vivek', 'Nireeksha', 'Kavini Sadhana', 'Abhiruchi', 'Sam Samvedan' and 'Shailee ane Swaroop' are his works of criticism. 'Goshti' is his collections of essays and 'Sapna Bhara' and 'Shaheed' are his collections of plays. 'Puranoman Gujarat' is his work of research.

Shri Joshi was inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhiji and the impact is reflected in his poems. He writes poems on various topics. In view of originality and idealism he has achieved high position among the

poets of the modern India. He was awarded a prize of Rs. 50,000 by the Bharatiya Gnan Peeth for his collection of poems 'Nisheeth'. He is editing 'Sanskriti' a well-known Gujarati Magazine, since 1947. He was President of the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad for two years. Because of his progressive views and scholastic outlook he has been nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1970.

Shri Pannalal Nanalal Patel (b. 1913 A. D.) is a native of a village Mandali near Dungarpur. Due to adverse circumstances, he could not get higher education, but by dint of application he has become a notable creative writer in Gujarati. His main contribution is to the literature of novels and stories. 'Malela Jeeva', 'Manavini Bhavai', 'Bhagyana Bheru', 'Bheeru Saathi', 'Surabhi', 'Youvan' and 'Meen Matina Manavi' are some of his well-known novels. 'Jeevo Dand' and 'Lakh Chorasi', 'Sukh Dukhna Saathi', 'Panetarna Rang' and 'Vatrakne Kanthe' are some of his collections of short stories. He has given a vivid picture of the village life of the North Gujarat and used the colloquial language of that area in his effective presentation, thereby he has opened a new area of interest for his readers. 'Manvini Bhavai' is considered to be his best work. Some pictures have been produced on the basis of his famous novels 'Kankoo' and 'Malela Jeeva'.

Shri Ramanlal Pitambar Soni (b. 1908 A. D.) of Modasa is a man of literature. He is known for his literary works for teenagers and children, for this, he was awarded prizes by the National and State Governments. He is the author of over 100 books of stories, poems, plays, translations, text books for secondary schools, etc. He has translated nearly 80 books from works of leading Bengali writers such as Sharadchandra Bose, Ravindranath Tagore, etc. 'Shri Bharatiya Katha Mangal' is a notable collection of his stories. 'Raliyamno Maro Desh'. Ramayan Katha Mangal', 'Mathanun Daan', 'Sharad Vani' and 'Tagoreni Sundar Vato' are some of his publications.

Shri Bhogilal Chunilal Gandhi (b. 1911 A. D.) is a graduate of the Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad. He learnt Bengali language and was first to translate in Gujarati 'Devdas' the famous novel of Sharadchandra Bose. His book 'Mari Pranay Srushtina Patro' became a matter of controversy because of its uninhabited style. He edited the communist party organ the 'Lokraj' for many years. He wrote poems under the pen-name 'Upavasi'. He was first to write sonnets in Prithvi Chhand. He started a Gujarati periodical, the 'Vishvamanav' since 1958, wherein his thought processes are reflected. 'Meetakshar' is a collection of his essays which are thought-provoking. 'Parajeet Prem' is a collection of his short stories. He writes columns in 'Sandesh' a leading Gujarati daily and discusses current problems of public life 'Anokhi Preet', 'Gujarat Darshan', 'Soviet Russia', 'Indiraji Kaye Marge', 'Vishva Sahityani

Vartao' and 'Samyavadi Chinman Sanskritic Kranti' are some of his other published books. He edited 'Purusharthni Prateema' a biography of Shri Mathuradas Laljibhai Gandhi, a leading social and political worker of Modasa.

Smt. Subhadraben Gandhi is the wife of Shri Bhogilal Gandhi. She has published books for new literate adults and teenagers and has been awarded prize by the Government of India. 'Manavatanun Bhavi' is her translation from English 'Has man a future ?' by Bertrand Russell. Her 'Santnu Baharvatu' is a book depicting Vinoba's approach for amelioration of the dacoits of the Chambal valley. With her husband, she is a co-editor of the 'Vishvamanav' a Gujarati periodical.

Prof. Murli Ramshanker Thakur, M. A., (b. 1911 A. D.) belongs to a small village Umedgarh. He had his higher education at the Elphinstone College, Bombay. He is attached to a number of literary and educational societies, *viz.*, the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, the Gujarat Vidya Sabha, the All India Writers' Association, etc. He is an eminent story-writer and poet, and has published 14 books including collections of short stories, poems, songs for children, translations from Hindi, English and Marathi in eight volumes ; such as 'Ma Mane Sambharere' and 'Mane Kem Visarere', 'Jijiji' a long story from Hindi. 'Amaldar' a play from Marathi and biographies of 'Sir Ramkrishna Bhandarkar' and 'Chandragupta Maurya' from English. He worked as a producer for the Spoken Word (Gujarati) section of the All India Radio (Bombay), for 9 years.

His other published works are as follow :

'Melo' are a collections of songs for children. 'Parabnan Panee' and 'Premal Jyot' are collections of short stories. 'Gujaratinu Adhyapan' is a book on methods of teaching Gujarati. He was a professor of the Gujarati language and literature in the Sydenham College, Bombay for 20 years and a President, Khar Sahitya Sabha, Bombay. Honorary member of the Advisory Panel of the Film Censor Board, Bombay. Member : Panel of Referees of the Script Committee, Film Financier Corporation Ltd., for Gujarati and Hindi.

Shri Purushottam Chhaganlal Shah (b. 1910 A. D.) of Modasa has published six books including 'Kavya Kalika', 'Varta Manjari', 'Krishna Kanayo' a three-act play. 'Jeevan Darshan of Maganlal Shastriji. 'Munjhata Ma Bapone' and 'Buddhi Mapan'.

Shri Parimal C. Shah (b. 1938 A. D.)—He belongs to Prantij. He is on the editorial board of 'Janasatta' Gujarati daily. He has published eight novels. 'Bujhato Deepak'. 'Lohinu Tipu'. 'Challenge'. 'Kateel Teer', 'Ring Leader'. 'Be Khoonni Ankho', Tilsmati Duniya' and 'Rahasya Ramani'.

Shir Vithal Pandya—He belongs to village Kabodra of the Prantij taluka. For a short period, he was connected with production of films and assisted in direction of the Films ; 'Geet Govind', 'Mendi Rang Lagyo' and 'Akhand Soubhayavati'. He is a secretary of 'Varta Vartul' and 'Lekhak Milan' at Bombay. He has published 28 books including 20 novels and 8 collections of short stories. 'Meetha Jalna Meen', 'Man Motine Kach', 'Chir Parichit', 'Haar Jeet', 'Nishkalank', 'Prapanch' 'Lanchhan' and 'Jantar Mantar' are some of his famous novels. 'Rasik Priya', 'Lajamani', 'Falguni', 'Rohini' and 'Jakham' are his collections of short stories. He has written plays and features (Roopaks) for All India Radio also.

Shri Manibhai Maganbhai Patel (b. 1940 A. D.) of Sonasan, taluka Prantij, is known by his pen-name "Parajeet". He has published 14 books : ten are novels and one is a play depicting social life. 'Bandh Darwaja', 'Joban Ganga', 'Gulab Shayya' and 'Pralay Zanza' are some of his novels. 'Panch Vati Farm' is his book on agriculture. About 300 short stories are published by him in various dailies and periodicals. His stories and plays are also selected for All India Radio programme in Gujarati. He has also written poems and *gazals*. He is President of the Sabarkantha Writers' Centre.

Shri Jayvadan Muljibhai Patel (b 1925 A. D.) belongs to Salatpur, taluka Prantij. He had started a Gujarati weekly 'Khedoot Mitra' in 1946 and continued it for 3 years. He edited 'Stree' and 'Shree' weeklies also. He is the chief reporter in the Gujarati daily, 'Gujarat Samachar'. He writes 'Jhakal Zanza', a weekly column on social problems in the 'Gujarat Samachar'. He has published four books including 'Hetnanna Hoy Haat' a novel and 'Triveni Sangam'. 'Mendino Rang' and 'Kunvari Preet' are his plays.

Shri Ramnik M. Gandhi (b. 1924 A. D.) has published 'Fuldan' (ફૂલદાની) a collection of poems. His short stories are published in his various periodicals. He edited the magazines the 'Aroon' and the 'Kalyani Sandesh'. He writes columns in the 'Janmabhoomi' news about his district.

Shri Ramchandra Thakur, M. A., (b. 1908 A. D.) belongs to Umedgarh, near Idar. He knows Pali and has studied literature of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Christianity and Yahudi religions. He is a linguist and knows Hindi, Bengali, English, Udia and Urdu languages. He Joined the film line as a director and author of film stories. About nine books are published by him of which four are novels, four are collections of stories and one is drama. His novel 'Amrapali' is translated and published in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil and Kannad. His novel 'Buddhidhan Birbal' is translated and published in Hindi and Kannad. 'Mira Prem Diwani' another novel is translated and published in English and Hindi.

His one-act plays and two-act plays are published in periodicals and selected by All India Radio in Gujarati programmes.

Shri Balkrishna Jatashankar Raval, M. A., is known as 'Bakul Raval'. He belongs to village Badoli, taluka Idar. He is a Professor of Gujarati and Vice-Principal, Mahila College, Malad (West), Bombay. He has published 'Gujarati Bhashanu Adhyapan', 'Rashtra Bhasha Praveshika' in Hindi, and 'Khel Kheladi' a book for extra reading. He was awarded a prize by the Government of Gujarat for his book 'Khel Kheladi'.

PERIODICALS

In the district publications of journals and periodicals did not make any headway comparatively, because most of the literary persons from the district went outside of the district for their livelihood. But in the past, during the period of historical importance such as Salt Satyagraha or for promoting religious movements, some periodicals were brought out and continued for sometime. Most of them were of short life. In the year 1910, the Modasa Brotherhood, a cultural association of enthusiastic youngmen was established. It started various educational and cultural activities in the district. The first periodical named the 'Suvanchhana' was published by this organisation. It was edited by Shri Mohanlal V. Gandhi. Another weekly, 'Padgham' also was published by the same association. During Salt Satyagraha, Ramanlal Soni had started publication of the 'Rana-nada' a journal in support of the Satyagraha containing inspiring battle-songs. With the same objectives another journal, the 'Dharma Yuddha' also was started during the same period. A weekly the 'Agekooch' was very popular and its publication continued for 20 years. But its publication was discontinued in 1970. An association named the 'Shuddha Dwait Sansad' had started publication of the 'Anugraha' a monthly edited by Shri Kesavram K. Shastri in the year 1938. The journal is still continued its publication but it is now periodically published thrice in a year. In the year 1952, a monthly for children named 'Venoo' was started, which was subsequently renamed 'Venoodhar'. Particulars of other periodicals published at present are as under :

Sl. No.	Name	Editor	Classification	Published from
1	2	3	4	5
1	The Sabar Sandesh	Manilal Liladhar Dixit	Fortnightly	Raigad
2	The Gujarat-Rajasthan	Chhotalal Narsidas Shah	Fortnightly	Himatnagar
3	The Ilva-Bhoomi ..	Kodarlal M. Upadhyay	Weekly	Raigad. (*viz.*, Modasa)
4	The Arya Jyoti ..	Kodarlal Mansukhram Joshi	Weekly	Khedbrahma
5	The Anugraha ..	Keshavram K. Shastri	Periodical	Modasa
6	The Apnu Sabarkantha	Shantikumar K. Sheth	..	Prantij
7	The Lok Sevak ..	Narendrabhai Malveeya	..	Modasa

LIBRARIES

Library movement is an important educational activity that reflects the state of education. It helps to promotes and spread education among the people. There were two main libraries in the former Idar State, one was the Woodhouse Library at Idar and the other Darbar Library at Himatnagar. There was also a small library at Ambaliara. In 1970-71, there were 10 leading libraries in the district. The details of some of the libraries are given below.

(1) *The Woodhouse Library, Idar*

The library at Idar known as the 'Woodhouse Library' is the oldest library in the district. It has its own building at the central place in Idar. In 1970-71, it had a collection of 4,000 books in different languages, classified into Gujarati 3,000, English 700. Hindi 300. A reading room with 35 daily newspapers, weeklies and magazines is also attached to the library. It is managed by the Idar Nagar Panchayat.

(2) *The Raman Pustakalaya, Prantij*

It is also an old library, established in the year 1881. It has its own building. In 1969-70, it had a collection of 5,075 books in different languages, classified into Gujarati 4,327, Hindi 422, English 296, Sanskrit 16 and Marathi/Urdu 14. It has also a reading room which receives 41 periodicals and 5 dailies.

(3) *The Brotherhood Library, Modasa*

This is an old library, established in the year 1900. It has its own building. In 1970-71, it had a collection of 5,893 books in different languages, classified into Gujarati 5,184, Hindi 395 and English 314. It has also a reading room, which receives 41 periodicals and 8 dailies.

(4) *The Mehta H. I. and Bai Anandi Free Vanchanalaya, Khedbrahma*

This library was established in 1942. It is housed in its own building. It has a collection of 2,054 books in different languages, classified into Gujarati 1,858, Hindi 123, English 68 and Sanskrit 5.

(5) *The Himat Library, Himatnagar*

This library was established by former Idar State in the year 1943. It had a collection of 20,321 books in different languages, classified into Gujarati 16,357, English 1,505, Hindi 1,394, Urdu 1,056 and Marathi 9. It also manages a reading room. For the benefit of rural areas, there is

an arrangement of sub-libraries. It is managed by the Himatnagar Nagar Panchayat. It is housed in the Government building.

(6) *The Bayad Taluka Sarvajanik Pustakalaya, Bayad*

This library was established in the year 1956. It has a collection of 2,003 books in different languages.

(7) *The Gandhi Kodarlal Hathichand Sarvajanik Pustakalaya, Talod*

This library was established in the year 1958. It is housed in its own building. It has a collection of 4,564 books in different languages, classified into Gujarati 4,484, Hindi 76 and English 4. A reading room is also attached to the library. It is managed by the Talod Gram Panchayat.

FOLK-SONGS

The life of Adivasis of Sabarkantha is not without its joys. It is enlivened by folk-songs. These folk-songs reveal many aspects of Adivasi life. Festivals, marriage songs and romantic stories are the themes of their folk-songs. The folk-songs reflect the aims and aspirations, hopes and frustration, trials and tribulations of the people in the various walks of life. The impact of modern civilisation is also reflected in their songs.

1. In this romantic song a girl named Mariam is invited by her lover to elope with him when she comes for work at the place where the dam is under construction. The lover also offers temptations, and tells her that they shall go to Ahmedabad and purchase radio and other luxury articles. This song also shows the growing modernisation in their interests and attitudes.

રહ્લે કેવું બુહે મરિયમ, વે'લી આવજે શેર કોવાણી !
આપડે દાનગી જાહા મરિયમ, વે'લી આવજે શેર કોવાણી !
× × ×
આપડે નાહી જાહા મરિયમ, વે'લી આવજે શેર કોવાણી !
બાઈ ગળુમા પરે મરિયમ, વે'લી આવજે શેર કોવાણી !
× × ×
આપડે અમદાવાદ જાહું મરિયમ, વે'લી આવજે શેર કોવાણી !
આપડે રેડિયો લાવહા મરિયમ, વે'લી આવજે શેર કોવાણી !
× × ×
ગચી વાત હે લાચી મરિયમ, વે'લી આવજે શેર કોવાણી !
જીવનું પ હું કરવું મરિયમ, વે'લી આવજે શેર કોવાણી !

2. In the Adivasi area, initial work of welfare was carried on by the Christian Missionaries. The Adivasis were recruited as soldiers in the army by the British Government. This song gives an interesting account of recruitment of the Adivasis made to the Kherwada Bhil Corps. They

used to blow the bugle in order to summon the Adivasis to the recruitment centre. The song also gives some idea about the curiosity aroused among the Adivasi people on seeing the British Officers.

પુરિયા સાહેબ રે'ને કેવું બુલે કારેલિયા
પુરિયા સાહેબ સાબીર રે ટુળીનું કારેલિયા

પુરિયા સાહેબ બંગળે બ્યુગલ વાગે કારેલિયા
પાજો મારો લરકાને હાથીડા કારેલિયા

પુરિયોને સાહેબ આવીને પાવો કરે કારેલિયા
હાત્યો મારો હાથીડા તીડાવો કારેલિયા

પાજો મારા મારા કઈક તે નવીન થાય કારેલિયા
પાજો મારા સપાઈ તાંમા દાંડે કારેલિયા

હાત્યો મારી નવી નવી નકલ થાય રે કારેલિયા

3. This song depicts the story of a heroic fight given by one Kala Gameti for reduction of heavy, taxation against the Dungarpur State (Rajasthan). In the song Kala invites the people of other villages to join him in the struggle against the State.

કાળા પાડ્યા રે'ને કેવુ, બુલે રે કાળા ગામીતી !
કયાં કાળા પાઈ બંગલે બ્યૂગલ થાય રે, કાળા ગામીતી !

કાળયા પાળયા હતિડા હંબાળો, કાળા ગામીતી !
ડુંગરપોર ને થેકમાંય માર્યુ ગાબડું કાળા ગામેતી !

માર્યું ગાબડું કાણાવાળુ' જા જા કાળા ગામેતી !
માર્યું ગામડે ગામિત્યનું જાજું કાળા ગામેતી !

કયાં કાળયા પાઈ કૈંક નવીન થાય રે કાળા ગામેતી !
કાળા પાળયા આપું વાંહે હંબાળો કાળા ગામેતી !

4. In this *garba*, a woman earnestly requests her husband to bring Boriyun, (An ornament worn on the forehead by women) chappals, sari and anklets.

આ તે કંઈક તે ઘડના જુઈઆજી !
આ તે બોરિયુને ઘડના જુઈઆજી !

બુરિયા માંયે મારો જીવ રઈ ગયો :
આ તે ચંપલ ઘડના જુઈઆજી !
ચંપલ માંયે મારો જીવ રઈ ગયો !
આ તે સાડલાને ઘડના જુઈઆજી !

સાડલા માંયે મારા જીવ રઈ ગ્યો !
આતે કડલાંને ઘડના જુઈઆજી !
અણા કડલાં માંયે મારો જીવ રઈ ગ્યો !

5. The Holi festival is the most important festival of the tribals in which men, women, old and young participate in the fun and joy. During this festival, one wooden pillar is set-up in the centre of the Holi-fire. It is called Holado set-up by the Idar Darbar. It is described as most beautiful and romantic.

હોલડો ઉજાડી વનમાંય,
હોલડો રોપાવ્યો રે !

હોલડો મારે રાંઈ રૂપાળો,
હોલડો ચેપાવ્યો રે !

હોલડો, ઉંડી દરિયાનો
હોલડો રોપાવ્યો રે !

હોલડો કયા પાઈને રસિયો
હોલડો રોપાવ્યો રેં !

હોલડો ઈડરગઢનો રાજા
હોલડો રોપાવ્યો રે !

6. This is a romantic song with tragic end. It narrates a story about the king of Udaipur who fell in love with a girl of low caste (Bajania, acrobat girl) called Galki Samatadi. They made a bet that a rope might be tied on both the sides across the Pichola lake at Udaipur and if the girl dancing on the rope crossed the lake, the ruler should give half of his State to her. In the event of failure, the girl would have to join his harem. Accordingly, the rope was tied and the girl danced half the rope-length. Then the ruler apprehended that she might dance to the opposite bank of the lake and thereby lose half of his State. So he managed to cut one end of the rope with the result that the girl fell in the Pichola lake and was drowned.

ઉદેપુર ઉદેપુર ગલકી સામટડી રે,
ઉદેપુરના રાજ્યમાં ગલકી સામટડી રે !
× × ×
જે ખેલ કરતી ફરે, ગલકી સામટડી રે,
વાંહડે સડે કે નાડે, ગલકી સામટડી રે !
× × ×
ઉદેપુરના રાજમાંહ, ગલકી સામટડી રે,
નું તે કેવા ખેલ કરે? ગલકી સામટડી રે
× × ×

પીચોલું તળાવે, ગલકી સામટડી રે,
અણે કાંઠે ને પેલે કાંઠે, ગલકી સામટડી રે !
× × ×
અરદું રાજ આલું, ગલકી સામટડી રે,
દડું દડું ઢુલકા વાજે, ગલકી સામટડી રે !
× × ×
અહવેચી-જાવા લાગી, ગલકી સામટડી રે,
તબ રાજા વિચાર કરે, ગલકી સામટડી રે !
× × ×
જે ગલકી રાજ લિયે, ગલકી સામટડી રે,
જે રાજા દગા દિયે, ગલકી સામટડી રે !
× × ×
રાજા નાડીને કપાવે, ગલકી સામટડી રે,
ગલકી નીચે પડી જાગ રે, ગલકી સામટડી રે !

7. This is also a love song. One Jivo Manat of Gamdi village went along with his friend Manur to the Singariwala Hills to fetch timber for house construction. In fact, he wanted to see Rupli, the young daughter of Kala, who used to graze a herd of cows. Both of them went to that hill but are disappointed as they could not meet the girl. As Jivo liked the girl, his friend Manur sent word for the girl after consulting his family members. Subsequently, a marriage of Jivo with Rupli was celebrated.

એ બારે તે પાડે ગાંબડી વાજી રેજી રે, વણઝારા રે,
ગાંબડી માય ત છૂટે કોનું રે કોનું જાજું રે, વણઝારા રે !

ગાબડી માય મનાના વાળુ જાજુરે, વણઝારા રે,
મનાના માય જીવલો ને મના તે રે, વણઝારા રે !

જીવા રે મનુર પાઈ વાળી જુડ રે, વણઝારા રે,
જીવલાએ મનાત મનમાય વચાર કરે રે, વણઝારા રે !
× × ×
લાડી રે જુહાની ડાંડા વાડહા રે, વણઝારા રે,
મનુરપાઈ કણાં મા'ગા જાહાં રે, વણઝારા રે !

મનુરપાઈ સીગરીવાળે માળે જાહાં રે, વણઝારા રે,
મુટે કેરના માળીણ ટુટે આવે રે, વણઝારા રે !

વીવા તે કરવો ને કરને માંડવું રે, વણઝારા રે,
જીવલો ને મનાત હોળો હોગો વાતો માંડવે રે, વણઝારા રે !

જીવલા તે મનાત કણે તે ડુંગરે જાહાં રે, વણઝારા રે,
આહેજાના માથે ડાંડા વાડહા રે, વણઝારા રે !
× × ×
ગાયમાય લાડી કેમ ની આવે રે, વણઝારા રે,
કાળીયાવાળી સુરી કેમની આવે રે, વણઝારા રે !

રૂપાળી તે લાડીના રૂપલી તેરે નામ રે, વણઝારા રે,
કે મનુરપાઈ જાવુ કે ની જાવું રે, વણઝારા રે !
× × ×
લક્ન રે માંગલાના લાડી જુહા રે, વણઝારા રે,
જીવાપાઇ કીવા લક્ન થજ રે, વણઝારા રે !

જીવણ મનાત જાહું ની તે જાહુ રે વણઝારા રે,
લાડી વોરનો મળતાવો આવે રે, વણઝારા રે !

લાડી વોરની કોલના કોડા કહો રે, વણઝારા રે,
જીવલા તે મનાન બીજ-પાંસીમના માંડવા રે, વણઝારા રે !
× × ×
લાડી વાંરના જાની તિયારી કરો રે, વણઝારા રે,
આમ કરતાં માયનીના તિયારી કરો રે, વણઝારા રે !
× × ×
વીશીડ મંગળ ફેરા ફેરવો રે, વણઝારા ર !

8. This song is sung at the timc when the girl is given a bath on the first day of the marriage ceremony. The song depicts various stages of the growth of the girl from childhood to the time she is married.

ઉતે નાનીક અતાં રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય,
ઉતે ટગલી પડતાં રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય !

ઉતે મુટી થાજી રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય,
ઉતે લાડી થાજી રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય, !

મારે હગાઈ કીદી રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય,
મારે વીવાઈ આનારે, પાણી મેવલ માંય !

ઉતે આંમલી ગીજી રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય,
ઉતે આંગણે આજી રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય !

ઉતે હાહરી ગીજી રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય,
ઉતે બુલતી આજી રે, પાણી મેવલ માંય !

9. Levirate is a common practice among the tribals. This song suggests the practice of levirate among the Adivasi people of Sabarkantha. A younger brother on seeing the worried face of his elder brother's wife inquires about the cause. In reply, she tells him about the sorrows of separation from her husband who has gone out for about 12 years in search of service and is not heard of for the last 12 years. She asks him to write a letter and find out the whereabouts of her husband. After intensive search, it is found that the elder brother is dead and gone. So he requests her to marry him. So that they will eke out a living jointly.

રઈને કિવું બુલે, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું,
પાઈ તે ભીજો સાકરી પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું !

કતરાંક વરહા થયા હી, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું,
બારેક વરહા થયા હી, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું !
× × ×
ડાકમાંય કાગળ નાખો, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું,
ડાકે તામા દોડે, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું !
× × ×
કીવું કાગળ બુલે, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું,
પાઈ તે મરાઈ જાય હે, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું !
× × ×
છુડી દે માયા છુડી દે, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું,
નહિ છુડું તારી માયા, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું !

દિવોર માથે માયા, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું,
આપડે કમાઈ ખાહા, પાબી મારા કણાય હું કે જું !

10. This is also a romantic song. In this song, an unmarried young girl inquiries from the wife of her brother about one handsome man with slender waist, flowers in the turban and an umbrella in his hand. The wife of her brother tells her that the young man is her brother. The girl falls in love with the young man and suggests her brother's wife to visit the Umaria fair. It is a practice among the Adivasis that the lovers meet in the fair, elope and marry. This song also suggests a type of marriage practice among the Adivasi called Bhagedu.

રઈને કીવું બુલે પાબી મય, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો,
કુણ હે આપણા વાળો પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો !

પાઈની હાળો સેલી પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો,
સેલી બુગતે સેલી પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો !
× × ×
રૂપાળા મુડાનો હે પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો,
ઝરમરિયા છુગલાનો પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો !
× × ×
નઈ સુડું તારી માયા પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો,
કયાંક તો મીરો પરાય હે પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો !
× ×
આવ હો ની આવ હો પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો,
ઉમરજાનો મોળો પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો !

આપડે મીળે જાહા પાબી, ઉળખાવો છતરીવાળો !

Source : *Gujarati Lokeahitya Mala, Manko-11*, Gujarat Rajya Loksahitya Samiti, Ahmedabad (1969), p. 202-212.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

INTRODUCTORY

The broad objective of the health programme in a welfare State is to expand health services to bring about progressive improvement in the health of the people. To achieve this objective, institutional facilities are expanded so that medical and health services reach, progressively, larger number of persons particularly in the rural areas. Specific schemes have been provided for improvement of environmental sanitation, rural and urban water supply, control of communicable diseases, organisation of institutional facilities and provision of services such as maternity, child welfare, health education, family planning, etc. Efforts are made to eradicate malaria and small-pox and control cholera, tuberculosis, leprosy and other communicable diseases.

The various schemes under the department can be broadly classified into two categories, *viz.*, (1) medical and (2) public health. The broad distinction between the two is that the former is concerned with curative aspect, whereas the latter is concerned with both curative and preventive aspects. The functions of the Medical Department are to render curative relief to the general public. The Public Health Department aims at promoting public health and is responsible for sanitation prevention and control of communicable diseases and insect-borne diseases like malaria and filaria, disinfection of drinking water supply, maternity and child health activities and population control through family planning methods and improvement in the registration of births and deaths.

In the past, when the modern allopathic system of medicine was not introduced, the Ayurved or the indigenous system of medicine was much in vogue. During those days minor ailments were treated by household drugs. Use of tree leaves and roots was most common It was only when these household remedies could not control the ailments, that people consulted Vaidyas. The life of the people was simple, regular and free from worries and tensions of modern life. As industrialisation and urbanisation had not made any headway, the people mostly worked in an open, healthy and peaceful surroundings which gave them certain immunity from diseases to which the present society is exposed. Moreover, the food they got was always pure and unadulterated. As a result, they lived a healthy natural life and did not ordinarily succumb to diseases.

At the same time, the toll of life was very much heavy when the epidemics like plague, cholera, etc., appeared in virulent form. This was

due to the absence of medicines and preventive methods which the modern science provides us now. Moreover, the Adivasis relied upon deities whose intervention they sought in every serious disease. Being ignorant and superstitious, they attributed calamities and epidemics to the evil influence or wrath of some deity or evil spirit. Naturally, therefore, in such cases they preferred to rely on sorcerers and witch-doctors who were supposed to possess antidotes and *mantras* to ward off the evil influence.

The past records indicate that the epidemics many a time spread unchecked and claimed a heavy toll. The *Annual Administration Reports of the Bombay Presidency*, record that in September 1887, cholera claimed a number of lives in this area. The report of 1893-94 notes that the general health of the people in the Mahikantha Agency was far from satisfactory. Cholera prevailed in many parts of the district and a fever of a dangerous type claimed many lives. In 1884-85, 189 deaths were reported due to cholera and the Idar State had to employ additional vaccinators to provide vaccination to the people. In 1896-97, as many as 425 persons were reported dead due to cholera that spread throughout the Mahi Kantha Agency area. In 1904, plague took nearly 3,000 lives. In 1918, influenza raged with fury and claimed a toll of 6,852 persons.[1]

The Mahikantha Directory[2] recorded intermittent and remittent fevers, parasitic diseases such as itch, ringworm, eye disease and dysentery as the common prevailing diseases during those days. All these diseases were due to bad sanitary conditions in the rural areas In addition to these, cholera and small-pox were also prevalent. While the former appeared during the hot season and disappeared after a good rainfall, the latter prevailed at all times in some parts of the district. The Idar State was careful to maintain health and sanitation standards. It maintained a hospital at Himatnagar and three public dispensaries at Idar, Vadali and Bayad. The State also employed vaccinators who were generally well received by the people. But the Bhils refused to allow them to enter their houses due to their superstitions.

The Mahikantha Annual Administration Report for the year 1904 mentioned 18 dispensaries in the area where over 70,000 patients were treated. It recorded a marked increase in mortality during that year because of the virulent spread of plague in almost every part of the Agency area. The public dispensaries were maintained at Bhiloda, Ilol, Ambaliara and Malpur, besides Himatnagar, Idar, Vadali and Bayad in the former Idar State. The following statement gives the number of patients treated at these dispensaries in 1907-08 and 1916-17

1. *The Mahikantha Directory*, Vol. I, (1922), pp. 99-103.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 99.

STATEMENT XVI·1

Patients Treated at Public Hospitals/Dispensaries

Name of the hospital / dispensary	Number of patients treated	
	1907-08	1916-17
1	2	3
Idar	6,269	2,937
Ahmednagar (Himatnagar)	4,546	2,570
Vadali	5,325	3,416
Bayad	5,430	1,397
Bhiloda	4,371	..
Ilol	..	2,888
Ambaliara	..	2,237
Malpur	..	1,098

Source :
The Mahikantha Directory, Vol. I. (1922), pp 102-103.

Besides the public hospitals and dispensaries mentioned above, which were working since long, the Idar State started Ayurvedic dispensaries at different centres. In 1912-13, it started a Leper Asylum at Bhavnath. The water and silt of the tank attached to the Shiv temple at this ancient place of Hindu pilgrimage was long considered to possess the remarkable qualities of curing leprosy and was attracting patients who were partially or wholly cured here. The Asylum was initially started with 20 beds.1 The *Administration Report* for 1933-34, besides mentioning this Asylum records three Ayurvedic dispensaries at Meghraj, Kadiadra and Poshina where indigenous medicines were administered to the people in out-lying villages. Additionally, there were two Ayurvedic dispensaries at Khedbrahma and Raigadh, which were given grant in-aid by the State. These dispensaries treated about 12,000 patients annually Besides, the State also maintained a travelling Ayurvedic dispensary. It needs to be stressed that no fees of any kind were charged from patients either in the hospitals or in any of the dispensaries in the State. All the institutions were charitable and were largely resorted to by people of all classes and creeds.2

1. *Administration Report of the Idar State* for the year 1912-13, pp. 22, 23.
2. *Ibid.*, 1933-34, p. 62.

Medical and Public Health Services after Independence

In 1950, before the introduction of the Five Year Plans the district had 2 Government hospitals, 18 dispensaries and 3 subsidised centres. The Civil Hospital at Himatnagar had capacity to accommodate only 54 indoor patients. There were no facilities for X-ray. Medical facilities in interior villages were inadequate. At the end of the First Plan, the number of medical institutions rose to 35 and then to 42 by the end of the Second Plan. An important scheme of training nurses was undertaken during the Second Plan. X-ray facilities were provided in the Civil Hospital at Himatnagar which was expanded to accommodate 75 beds. A mobile dispensary was also started which now provides medical facilities to Adivasis in the backward areas. Moreover, a Cottage Hospital with X-ray facilities was opened at Bhiloda in 1962 at a cost of Rs. 1·90 lakhs. Among private hospitals may be mentioned Shrimant Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad General Hospital which was opened at Vatrak in 1965.

VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate in the district is higher than the death rate by about three times, as can be seen from the following statement.

STATEMENT XVI·2

Birth and Death Rates, 1965-69

Year	No. of live births registered	No. of deaths registered	No. of infant deaths registered	Birth rate	Death rate	Infant mortality rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1965 ..	19.789	6,687	949	19.4	6.6	48
1966 ..	17.838	5,098	776	17.1	5.5	44
1967 ..	20.180	6,140	908	18.0	5.8	45
1968 ..	21,673	6,764	875	19.9	6.2	40
1969 ..	19,266	7,259	790	17.3	6.5	41

Source :
Director of Health and Medical Services (Health Section), Ahmedabad.

The statement indicates that while the death rate has almost remained the same the birth rate has gone down by 2 points during the five year period. The decrease in birth rate may be attributed to the Family Planning campaign which has gained momentum of late. A significant fall in the infant mortality rate is a healthy trend indicating the effects of larger medical and public health facilities available now.

Common Diseases

Some indications about the diseases commonly prevalent in the district can be had from the following statement.

STATEMENT XVI·3

Common Diseases, 1965-1969

Sl. No.	Diseases	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Cholera	6	1	..	3	6
2	Small-pox	72	123	100	47	58
3	Fevers	2,655	1,993	1,999	2,073	2,279
4	Dysentery, Diarrhoea ..	77	64	73	83	80
5	Respiratory Diseases ..	417	373	290	96	61
6	Snakebites	19	18	19	20	24
7	Rabies	..	2	4	6	..
8	All other causes ..	3,441	3,124	3,646	4,456	4,751
	Total	6,687	5,698	6,140	6,784	7,259

Source :
Director of Health and Medical Services (Medical Section), Ahmedabad.

It would be seen that most of the deaths occur due to fevers. Other diseases which commonly occur include respiratory diseases, dysentery, small-pox, etc. A steep and continuous fall in deaths due to respiratory diseases from 417 in 1965 to 61 in 1969 is noteworthy. Equally noteworthy is the fact that serious diseases like plague, malaria, etc., have disappeared while cholera and small-pox have been brought under control. This has become possible as a result of various preventive and prophylactic measures taken by Government under the National Malaria Eradication Programme, the National Small-pox Eradication Programme, etc.

STATEMENT XVI-4

Indoor and Outdoor Patients Treated in Public Hospitals, Dispensaries and S. M. P. Centres, Sabarkantha

Year	Indoor patients treated during the year				Number of beds available		Outdoor patients treated during the year			
Year 1	Men 2	Women 3	Children 4	Total 5	Men 6	Women 7	Men 8	Women 9	Children 10	Total 11
1961 ..	1,317	1,423	1,068	3,808	58	51	35,515	23,562	36,774	95,851
1962 ..	1,267	1,433	949	3,649	70	54	44,278	30,609	46,693	121,580
1963 ..	1,354	1,643	686	3,683	64	60	45,502	31,957	48,355	125,814
1964 ..	1,544	1,867	1,004	4,415	65	60	35,656	26,358	38,587	100,601
1965 ..	1,643	2,145	1,016	4,804	75	64	63,304	51,396	73,666	188,366
1966 ..	Not available									
1967* ..	1,592	1,844	1,035	4,471	108	78	19,713	17,158	19,344	56,215
1968 ..	1,723	2,472	1,459	5,654	164	107	38,426	32,797	37,561	108,784

Source :
Annual Administration Reports of the Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries, for the years : 1961, pp. 74-77, 1962, pp. 98-99, 1963, pp. 136-137, 1964, pp. 114-117, 1965, pp. 100-103, 1967, pp. 72-75, 1968, pp. 78-79.

* Figures about Government Dispensaries are not included.

The statement shows that between 1961 and 1968 the increase in the number of indoor patients is greater (50 per cent) than in the outdoor patients (13 per cent). The number of women patients has increased abnormally as compared to men both in the indoor and outdoor departments. But there is no corresponding increase in the number of beds available for women.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

The district has three public hospitals and four private hospitals. The public hospitals are :

(i) the Civil Hospital, Himatnagar.
(ii) the Cottage Hospital, Bhiloda and
(iii) Sheth V. U. Referral Hospital, Idar.

The private hospitals are :

(i) Shrimant Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad General Hospital, Vatrak,
(ii) Dr. Rasiklal Shah Sarvajanik Hospital, Modasa,

(iii) Shri Haribhai Kevalbhai Patel Sarvajanik Hospital, Jadar and
(iv) Gandhi N. R. Sarvajanik Hospital, Talod.

Besides, there are 11 Government dispensaries situated at the following places in the district.

1 Badoli
2 Vadali
3 Kheroj
4 Virpur
5 Vankaner
6 Malpur
7 Dhankhrol
8 Bayad
9 Khedbrahma
10 Sathamba
11 Vadagam

In addition to these, there are 13 Allopathic dispensaries, 11 Ayurvedic dispensaries and 11 S. M. P. (Subsidised Medical Practitioners) centres run by the District Panchayat at various places in the district. Talukawise details about these dispensaries are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT XVI-5

Dispensaries run by the Panchayat

Sl. No.	Name of the Taluka	Allopathic Dispensaries	Ayurvedic Dispensaries	S. M. P. Centres
1	2	3	4	5
1	Himatnagar ..	..	1. Raigadh 2. Ilol	1. Pedhmala 2. Hathrol
2	Prantij ..	..	1. Sonasar 2. Fatehpur 3. Pogle 4. Mohanpur	1. Moyad 2. Punsri 3. Ujadia 4. Dhadkan
3	Modasa ..	1. Tintoi 2. Sardoi 3. Bayal-Dhankhrol 4. Vadagam	1. Dhansura	.
4	Bayad ..	1. Sathamba 2. Bayad	..	1. Demai
5	Bhiloda ..	1. Vankaner	1. Bamna	1. Shamlaji
6	Malpur ..	1. Malpur	.	1. Ubharan
7	Meghraj ..	..	..	..
8	Idar ..	1. Vadali 2. Virpur 3. Badoli	1. Chitroda 2. Verabar 3. Chorivad	..
9	Khedbrahma ..	1. Kheroj 2. Khedbrahma	1. Champalpur	1. Unchi-Dhanal
10	Vijaynagar ..	..	..	..

Source : District Health Officer, Sabarkantha District, Himatnagar.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS

The Civil Hospital, Himatnagar—The Civil Hospital of Himatnagar was established in 1928 during the regime of the old Idar State and was formerly known as Sir Pratap Hospital. It has a capacity to accommodate 75 beds. Besides having facilities of screening and X-ray, the hospital has a pathological laboratory, a T. B. clinic and a family planning section. The District T. B. centre started in 1969 is attached to this hospital.

The common diseases found among the patients include diarrhoea, influenza, T. B., respiratory diseases and diseases of eye, skin, etc.

The number of indoor patients treated in the hospital has increased from 2,523 in 1966 to 3,152 in 1970, while that of outdoor patients has similarly increased from 18,103 to 26,319 during the five-year period. The indoor patients treated at the T. B. clinic of the hospital has also increased from 254 to 423 between 1966 and 1970.

The hospital incurs an average expenditure of about Rs. 2·25 lakhs annually.

The Cottage Hospital, Bhiloda—The Cottage Hospital was established at Bhiloda in 1962. It is a full-fledged hospital established with the purpose of providing medical facilities in the Adivasi areas of the district.

The hospital has a separate T. B. clinic and a department for X-ray. It has a well-equipped operation theatre where all types of operations are carried out by a qualified surgeon. It accommodates 24 indoor patients. The number of outdoor patients treated at the hospital was 6,566 in 1965 which increased to 8,750 in 1969. In the indoor patients department, 664 patients were treated in 1966. In the year 1969, the number rose to 815.

In the T. B. clinic, 114 outdoor patients and 76 indoor patients were treated in the year 1965. In 1969, the number rose to 145 and 125 respectively.

A family planning centre is attached to this hospital. The average annual expenditure of the hospital is a little less than Rs. 1 lakh.

Sheth V. U. Referral Hospital, Idar—Sheth V. U. Referral Hospital was formerly a small dispensary run by the Idar State. In 1948, Sheth Virchand Ugarchand donated the present building to the dispensary which, thereafter, came to be known as Sheth Virchand Ugarchand Government Dispensary. In 1968, the dispensary was expanded and came to be known as Sheth V. U. Referral Hospital.

The hospital is divided into three main sections : (1) outdoor, (2) indoor and (3) maternity home. The maternity home is named after Shrimati Maniben Amratlal Parikh, who built a separate building for it in 1948.

Besides having facilities of screening and X-ray, the hospital has a pathological laboratory, a T. B. sub-centre and a family planning centre. Anti-rabic treatment is also given. All types of diseases are treated at this hospital except those requiring major surgical operations which are referred to the Civil Hospital, Himatnagar. Minor operations regarding female diseases and family planning operations are done at the hospital.

The following statement shows the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at the hospital during 1966 to 1970.

Year	Indoor Patients	Outdoor Patients
1	2	3
1966	3,640	53,732
1967	3,090	50,312
1968	3,795	54,935
1969	3 646	52,836
1970	3 367	37,087

The hospital is controlled by the Director of Health and Medical Services, Ahmedabad.

PRIVATE CHARITABLE HOSPITALS

(1) *Shrimant Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad General Hospital, Vatrak*—Shrimant Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad General Hospital at Vatrak in Bayad taluka was established in 1965. It has a total capacity to accommodate 300 beds but at present about 160 beds are provided. As regards outdoor patients, it provides treatment to an average of about 20,000 patients every year. The hospital is well-equipped with a number of new apparatuses. Two well-equipped operation theaters and one mobile X-ray unit are provided in the Radiological Department of the hospital. One fully-equipped pathological laboratory with microscopes, hot air oven, electric photo calorimeter, etc., is also established. All sorts of pathological tests are done at the laboratory. One modern electric cardiogram machine is provided for heart patitents who are treated by a qualified physician. Blood transfusion service is provided for tapping and giving blood to the needy patients. One separate operation theatre for eye operations is also established with attached sterilization room. A separate eye ward for 30 patients is maintained and all modern equipment and facilities are provided there. Though there is no full-fledged dental unit, a dental surgeon visits the hospital once every week.

The following statement shows the total number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at the hospital between 1965 and 1969.

	Year			
1	1965-66 2	1966-67 3	1967-68 4	1968-69 5
Indoor patients	3,057	3,929	4,287	4,151
Outdoor patients ..	17,515	19,121	18,558	20,976
Surgical operations ..	776	1,189	1,133	1,476

These figures bear ample testimoney to the increasing popularity of the hospital. The chief diseases treated at the hospital are diphtheria, diarrhoea, dysentery, enteric fever, pneumonia, tuberculosis, tumors, trachoma, cataract, diabetes, diseases of the generative system, nephritis, diseases of liver, etc.

Under the family planning programme, one urban family welfare planning centre is opened recently at the hospital, where twenty beds are provided at present.

The hospital incurs, on an average, a total recurring expenditure of Rs. 3 lakhs per year.

Dr. Rasiklal Shah Sarvajanik Hospital, Modasa—Dr. Rasiklal Shah Sarvajanik Hospital was established in the year 1943, with the efforts of the late Shri Mathuradas Gandhi and other social workers of the Seva Sangh Pradesh Samiti, Modasa. It was started with a meagre capital of Rs. 1,900 and was named "Seva Sangh Sarvajanik Hospital". The late Dr. Rasiklal H. Shah was associated with this hospital as its founder Trustee, Secretary, as well as the Chief Medical Officer till 1969 when he died. In appreciation of his long selfless service, the hospital has been named after him as "Dr. Rasiklal Shah Sarvajanik Hospital" since 1971. Dr. Rasiklal Shah could secure large donations from a number of philanthropists to make the hospital what it is today.

The hospital has a well-equipped operation theatre with medical diathermy, X-ray machine and other equipment required in a modern hospital. It has a modern pathological laboratory where all routine investigations are carried out for the patients. Recently, a photo calorimeter has been purchased out of the equipment-grant from the Central Government. With the aid of this apparatus, blood sugar test is carried out.

The annual recurring expenditure of the hospital amounts to nearly Rs. 3 lakhs while its income from fees, etc., amounts to about Rs. 2 lakhs.

The deficit is met from the grant by the State Government and private donations. The facility of treating patients suffering from tuberculosis is available and free medicines, injections, etc., are provided to the patients irrespective of caste or creed. B. C. G. vaccination is also given at this hospital. One Anti-rabic centre for treatment of patients bitten by rabid dogs, etc., exists at this hospital for the last several years. Patients suffering from the diseases of eye are also treated by an honorary visiting ophthalmologist once every week.

The hospital has the capacity to accommodate 95 beds, at the maximum.

Shree Haribhai Kevalbhai Patel Sarvajanik Hospital, Jadar—Jadar and about 50 villages nearby were devoid of medical facilities till 1957. In the year 1957 with donations from the Jadar Vepari Mandal and the local population a small nine-bed hospital was started at Jadar. It was initially housed in a rental building. Gradually it developed into its present size having its own building and 40 beds for the indoor patients. It was named after Shree Haribhai Patel who donated Rs. 51,000 to the hospital in 1968.

The hospital has a fully-equipped X-ray department, an operation theatre, a labour room with all necessary instruments, a vaccination department and a peripheral tuberculosis centre giving free medical and diagnostic facilities to T. B. patients. The hospital is also provided with a clinical laboratory where primary investigations of blood, urine, etc., are carried out. Tubectomy operations under the Family Planning Scheme are also done at the hospital.

The yearly expenditure incurred by the hospital has increased from Rs. 24,600 in 1966 to over Rs. 1 lakh in 1970.

The following statement shows the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at the hospital between 1966 and 1971.

Year	Indoor patients	Out door patients
1	2	3
1966	1,840	15,920
1967	2,357	20,815
1968	2,718	21,941
1969	3,802	21,992
1970-71	5,358	27,526

Gandhi N. R. Sarvajanik Hospital, Talod—The hospital was established in the year 1959 by the efforts of the Talod Gram Panchayat. It is named after Shri Nemchand Revchand Gandhi, the principal donor who had donated Rs. 27,000 for the construction work. The land admeasuring nearly two acres was donated by the Talod Station Merchants Association. The hospital was started with 20 beds. The Ujamba Hathichand Gheldas Maternity Home was also attached to the hospital during the same year. A T. B. ward was added in the year 1968-69. It has now 30 beds. The hospital was managed by the Talod Gram Panchayat till 1962, when it was taken over by the Talod Arogya Seva Mandal.

The hospital has a separate eye department, surgical department, a fully equipped X-ray department, one anti-rabic vaccine centre, a T. B. centre and a family planning centre. It has a well-equipped pathological laboratory also.

The hospital treats on an average about 40,000 outdoor patients and 1,000 indoor patients annually.

NUMBER OF DOCTORS

The number of doctors in the district according to the Census of 1951 was 107 of whom 104 were males and 3 females. Between 1951 and 1961 there was a considerable increase in their number which rose to 487. Of them, 481 were males and 6 females. In terms of population served, there was one doctor for every 1,886 persons in 1961 as against 6,393 in 1951. The number of Ayurvedic physicians was 64 in 1961 which rose to 106 in 1967.[1]

Administrative Set-up

The Director of Health and Medical Services is the head of all medical and health institutions in the State and is responsible for efficient working of all such institutions. The Directorate is divided into two sections-medical and public health. On the medical side, the Director is assisted by two Deputy Directors, one of whom is placed in charge of medical education and the other looks after hospitals, nursing schools, mental hospitals, etc. On the health side, there is a Deputy Director of Public Health (Inspection) at the headquarters, to look after all the activities of the Public Health Department except Family Planning and Malaria-Filaria Programmes. He is assisted by the Assistant Director of Public Health in charge of different health programmes implemented by the Public Health Department through the District Health Officer at district level. The District Health Officer of Sabarkantha has his headquarters at Himatnagar. He is in charge of all public health activities in the district.

1. Voters' list prepared by Gujarat Board of Ayurvedic and Unani System of Medicine, Ahmedabad, (1967).

There is also a Joint Director of Public Health Services at State level who is in charge of all activities connected with the Family Planning Programme and Maternal and Child Health Services. These schemes are implemented through the District Family Planning Officers at the district level. The Deputy Director of Public Health (Malaria-Filaria) is in charge of National Malaria Eradication and National Filaria Control Programme at the State level. He functions through the Regional Malaria Officers and the incharge Unit Officers at district level.

The main activities of the Public Health Department are : (1) preventive and curative measures, (2) vaccination, (3) T. B. control, (4) malaria control, (5) trachoma control, (6) improvement in vital statistics, (7) improvement in birth and death registration, (8) maternity and child welfare and (9) family planning. In execution of these activities, the District Health Officer is assisted by an Epidemic Medical Officer, a District Sanitary Inspector, two Divisional Sanitary Inspectors, a District Vaccination Inspector and a District Public Health Nursing Officer. The District Health Officer organises measures for public sanitation and hygiene at fairs and festivals and also investigates the causes of origin and spread of infectious diseases such as cholera, small-pox, plague, etc. He advises the Panchayats in matters connected with health, sanitation, drainage and water supply; inspects primary health centres, maternity and child health centres, allopathic dispensaries, Ayurvedic dispensaries, family planning centres and guides implementation of the national programme for eradication of diseases. He also guides programmes related to disinfection of drinking water and infected materials, construction of soak-pits and latrines suitable for rural areas and removal of manure heaps from inhabited localities. Vaccination and revaccination on a large scale are being carried out by a squad of Sanitary Inspectors and Vaccinators, who work under the supervision of the District Health Officer.

The District Health Organisation Scheme and the Family Planning Programme, were transferred to the District Panchayat in 1963 and 1969 respectively. All the primary health centres and dispensaries etc., are under the control of the District Health Officer. One Referral Hospital at Idar has been started in 1968-69 which is directly under the control of the Health department.

Besides this, there is a District T. B. Officer in charge of the District T. B. Centre Sabarkantha, Himatnagar, who is responsible for taking measures to control the tuberculosis disease in the district.

Small-pox

Small-pox is one of the major diseases in the district. The earliest reports of the Idar State mention small-pox as a major epidemic raging fiercely every year. The *Administration Report of the State* for 1915-16 recorded

528 cases of small-pox of which 65 proved fatal. In 1925-26, 385 cases were reported of which 29 proved fatal. After Independence, systematic attempts to eradicate small-pox were carried out under the National Small-pox Eradication Programme. Vaccinations are given as a measure of protection against this disease. However, the disease still prevails taking a heavy toll of life every year. In the year 1965, there were 72 deaths due to small-pox. The figure rose to 123 in 1966 and was 100 in 1967. The disease was, thereafter, under control, and the figure came down to 47 in 1968 and 58 in 1969.[1] Vaccination work is carried out regularly under the National Small-pox Eradication Programme. Under the programme, formerly one Vaccinator was provided for vaccination work to cover a population of 80,000. To reduce his work load he is now required to cover only 35,000 people. The Vaccination Inspector is the supervising authority at district level.

The following are the figures of vaccinations and revaccinations between 1967 and 1971.

Year 1			Primary Vaccinations 2	Re-Vaccinations 3
1967	..	..	49,406	20,746
1968	..	..	42,149	6,797
1969	..	..	46,170	1,60,047
1970	..	..	49,128	67,173
1971 (part)	..	..	27,353	19,023

Source :
Director of Health and Medical Services, (Health Section), Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

Malaria—During the First Five Year Plan period, the scheme of spraying D. D. T. in the affected areas was started. Anti-malaria drugs were distributed during the Second Five Year Plan period. The Gujarat State Malaria Eradication programme was also started during the Second Plan period. As a result, malaria organisation was set up in each district. Cases of malaria registered between 1966 and 1971 are given below.

Year 1						Malaria cases 2
1966	..	..	..	..	..	218
1967	..	..	..	..	..	3,323
1968	..	..	..	..	..	1,469
1969	..	..	..	..	..	992
1970	..	..	..	..	..	2,831
1971 (upto 4th July, 1971)			..	..	..	1,030

None of these cases proved fatal.

1. *Annual Public Health Reports*, Public Health Department, Gujarat State.

Tuberculosis—In ancient times tuberculosis was known as 'Raj-Rog' as it was considered almost incurable. With the development in medical research, tuberculosis is no more an incurable disease. The following statement shows the outdoor and indoor patients treated at the T. B. Clinics in the district during the last five years.

Year	Patients treated at T. B. Clinics	
	Indoor	Outdoor
1	2	3
1966	254	809
1967	337	1,002
1968	353	1,240
1969	329	1,289
1970	423	1,523

Source :
Superintendent, Civil Hospital and Civil Surgeon, Himatnagar.

Cholera—The old records indicate that cholera had taken a heavy toll of human lives in the past. With the improvement in public hygiene and preventive measures adopted in form of mass anti-cholera inoculation regular and repeated disinfection of water supplies in the affected areas and treatment of cholera cases in the isolation hospitals its effects are now milder. But the epidemic appears almost regularly though in a very mild form. In 1965, there were six deaths due to cholera. The district was free from cholera in 1967. But in 1968 it spread in some parts of the district and 3 deaths due to cholera were recorded. In 1969, the disease took a toll of 6 lives.

Rabies—Facilities have been provided for affording anti-rabic treatment at the following 17 places.

(1) Primary Health Centre, Poshina, (2) Primary Health Centre, Vijaynagar, (3) Primary Health Centre, Bhiloda, (4) Government Dispensary, Bayad, (5) Government Dispensary, Meghraj, (6) Government Dispensary, Malpur, (7) Seva Sangh Dispensary, Modasa, (8) Sarvajanik Dispensary, Jadar, (9) Dispensary, Sathamba, (10) Dispensary, Vadali, (11) Dispensary, Khedbrahma, (12) Dispensary, Prantij, (13) Civil Hospital, Himatnagar, (14) Cottage Hospital, Bhiloda, (15) Sheth V. U. Hospital, Idra, (16) Mission Hospital, Lusadia, and (17) Sarvajanik Hospital, Talod.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Introduction—Health education has always remained one of the important planks of the health programme. Several health problems arise

due to poor health habits and ignorance of the people. The success or otherwise of any programme of health depends upon the wholehearted co-operation and participation of the people for whom it is meant. Health education is, therefore, essential to bring about a significant change in people's knowledge about health problems. For this purpose, the State Government has started State Health Education Bureau under an Assistant Director of Public Health. At district level, the work is done by the District Health Officer. The main aims of the State Health Education Bureau are to help people achieve better health, to enlist people's active participation in the public health programmes and to encourage them to utilize fully the services provided by the Government. Health education is carried out by the District Health Officer and his staff through group talks amongst the village people.

Primary Health Centres--Primary health centres provide basic health services in rural areas. They provide maternity and child health services in an integrated manner and also carry out several functions, preventive as well as curative. So far, 13 Primary Health Centres have been established in the district. Each centre covers a population of about 60,000 The centre is headed by a Medical Officer (class II), who has under him one health visitor or nurse-midwife, four midwives, one sanitary inspector and one compounder. The main services provided at these centres are (i) medical relief (ii) maternal and child health services (iii) family planning (iv) school health (v) health education (vi) environmental sanitation (vii) control of communicable diseases (viii) control of leprosy, etc. Each Primary Health Centre has got 3 sub-centres. Details of the primary health centres and sub-centres are given below.

STATEMENT XVI-6

Primary Health Centres and Sub-centres in the Sabarkantha District

Sl. No.	Taluka	Primary Health Centres	Sub-centres
1	2	3	4
1	Modasa ..	.. Modasa ..	1. Sardoi-Bakrol 2. Bayal 3. Tintoi 4. Dhansura
2	Himatnagar ..	.. Rupal ..	.. 1. Navalpur 2. Chandarni 3. Ilol
3	Bhiloda	..	.. Kheradi ..	.. 1. Shamalaji 2. Torda 3. Munai
4	Vijaynagar ..	.. Vijaynagar ..	1. Atarsumba 2. Chithoda

STATEMENT XVI-6—*concld.*

Sl. No. 1	Taluka 2	Primary Health Centres 3	Sub-Centres 4
5	Khedbrahma ..	.. Poshina	.. 1. Kheroj 2. Delwada 3. Khedava
6	,, ..	.. Derol	.. 1. Unchidhanal 2. Motada
7	Bayad ..	.. Ambaliyara	.. 1. Indrana 2. Karanpur 3. Akrund
8	Idar	.. Kadiadra	.. 1. Mudeti 2. Bhadresar 3. Mota Kotda
9	,, ..	.. Deshottar	.. 1. Devad 2. Kava 3. Dobhada
10	Malpur ..	.. Satarda	.. 1. Helodar 2. Mevda
11	Prantij ..	.. Prantij	.. 1. Dadarada 2. Sonasan 3. Ranasan 4. Aniod
12	Meghraj ..	.. Meghraj	.. 1. Rayawada 2. Patel-na-Dhundha
13	,, ..	.. Isari	.. 1. Shamalaji 2. Rellawada 3. Palla

FAMILY PLANNING

Population explosion during the last few years has been causing serious concern to all. The gains which accrue from the implementation of the Five Year Plans are wiped off by increase in the population between 1951 and 1961, during which the population of the district has increased by about 34·29 per cent which is the highest since 1901. With a view to arresting this abnormal growth, family planning programme is being vigorously implemented all over the State.

It now forms a very important part of the district health programme. The programme is implemented through the Family Planning Centres and Primary Health Centres. The centres distribute contraceptives among the needy married couples. The District Health Officer, with the help of District Family Planning Officer, organises camps for popularising this device. Government has appointed social workers, field workers and attendants, who move from house to house for free distribution of contraceptives as also to explain the benefits of planned parenthood. The District Family Planning Officer is

responsible for implementation of the Family Planning Programme in the district. He is assisted by one male and one female Assistant Surgeon, District Health Educator and others. There are 13 Family Planning Centres in the rural areas and 4 in the urban areas of the district. Besides, there are 40 sub-centres functioning in different parts of the district. In urban areas, 6 urban Family Planning Welfare Centres are established, which are run by voluntary organisations with 100 per cent central assistance. The work done under the Family Planning Programme in Sabarkantha district year to year from 1957 onwards in terms of sterilizations, I.U.C.D. and conventional contraceptives is given in the table below.

STATEMENT XVI·7

Yearwise Performance under Family Planning Programme in the District

Year	Vasec-tomy	Tubec-tomy	Total	I. U.C.D.	Condom	Diaph-ragm	Jelly/ Cream	Foam tablets
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1957-61 ..	300	167	467	..	..	..	..	..
1962 ..	21	68	89	..	..	..	..	..
1963 ..	42	132	174	..	..	..	..	..
1964 ..	433	267	700	..	..	..	..	..
1965 ..	203	569	772	3,233	..	..	..	..
1966. Jan.-Feb. March	..	44	44	1,137	..	..	..	..
1966-67 ..	244	264	508	1,018	..	..	..	..
1967-68 ..	1,088	641	1,729	704	..	..	..	..
1968-69 ..	1,300	1,431	2,731	365	186,917	12	192	840
1969-70 ..	1,538	1,408	2,946	176	100,380	6	12	84
1970-71 ..	1,455	1,714	3,169	126	140,196	..	..	..
1971-72 upto September	582	996	1,578	156	257,790	..	..	..

Source :
Director of Health and Medical Services, Gujarat State.

AYURVED

Ayurved is the medical science of the Hindus. The important principles of hygiene and public health alongwith the dietary values of each article of food and its effect on human health mentioned in the Ayurvedic texts constitute a good treatise on public health. Ayurvedic texts are quite helpful in diagnosing diseases without much expense. From 200 B. C. to 1600 A. D., full-fledged Ayurvedic hospitals treating ailments, doing all kinds of *panchkarma* and surgery and attending to public health

problems existed all over India. Ayurved suffered on account of foreign invasions, spread of western education and the advent of the British rule in India. The absence of scientific research and the dearth of qualified, well-versed, devoted Vaidyas accelerated its decline during the British days.

Ayurved is revived after Independence due to the patronising attitude of the national Government which has realised the importance of this indigenous medical science. The first Ayurved University in the country was founded at Jamnagar in Gujarat State in 1969.

The Ayurvedic dispensaries are located in the following villages of the district.

Name of the Village	*Taluka*
Khed	Himatnagar
Bankhor	Himatnagar
Gambhoi	Himatnagar
Goral	Idar
Dobhada	Idar
Rampur (Kampa)	Bayad
Limbhoi	Modasa
Williampura	Prantij
Sagpur	Prantij
Borha	Prantij
Torda	Bhiloda

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Out of the several elements essential for human survival, none occupies a higher place than water. But the mere availability of water is not by itself sufficient. If drinking water is not made available in a pure, protected and wholesome form, it may immediately become a carrier of disease and suffering instead of a blessing to the mankind. It is, therefore, very necessary that pure and wholesome drinking water should be available to every individual. This assumes greater, importance in rural areas as a major portion of our population resides in villages where the problem of drinking water supply is acute.

Before Independence, there were no adequate facilities for water supply, both in rural and urban areas of the district. No water works existed in rural areas. Attempts in this direction were made after Independence, especially after the introduction of the Five Year Plans. By the end of the Second Plan, 15 waterworks were constructed in the district. During the Third Plan, a special investigation division called "Rural Water Supply

Investigation Division" was established (in June, 1963) with headquarters at Broach and three sub-divisions at different centres in the State to examine the problem of rural water supply. Preliminary investigations were carried out by this division to assess the nature and magnitude of the problem and to formulate proposals for providing drinking water supply in rural areas of the State. Basic statistical data in this connection were collected between 1962 and 1965 by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics, which carried out a survey called "Basic Amenities Survey in Rural Areas of the State." The Rural Water Supply Investigation Division, Broach made use of data collected by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics and classified the villages of the Sabarkantha district in four broad categories, *viz.*, (i) difficult and scarcity areas, *i. e.*, no source category, (ii) special backward class areas, (iii) areas with unsafe and unwholesome water supply, and (iv) areas with inadequate water supply to be raised to the maximum standard. The work of providing water to villages classified under (i) and (ii) is under progress and is proposed to be completed before the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan while schemes for categories (ii) and (iii) will be executed thereafter. The survey revealed that nearly 25 per cent of the villages in the State did not have adequate water supply, and that of all the districts of Gujarat, the Sabarkantha district had the maximum number of villages (*i. e.*, 212) having no source of water supply.[1] The acuteness of the drinking water supply in the district is thus apparent. One of the evil effects of shortage of protected water supply is the spread of diseases such as Guinea-worm. No wonder, the Sabarkantha district had the maximum number of persons affected by this disease (690 in the year 1962).[2]

As a result of the survey, various schemes of rural water supply have been undertaken. These schemes have been grouped into two categories, *viz.*, (i) for villages having prospective population upto 500 and (ii) for villages having prospective population above 500.

For villages in category (i) above, a sanitary well with hand pump was proposed. For those under category (ii) piped water supply scheme consisting of sanitary well, pump house and a reservoir with distribution system of cistern-cum-standpost etc., was proposed. These schemes would involve an estimated expenditure of over Rs. 90 lakhs in the district.

The village water supply schemes have been executed in Sikka (Modasa), Harsol (Prantij) and Bolundra (Modasa). The scheme will be further extended to (i) Bamna (Bhiloda), (ii) Laxmipura (Khedbrahma), (iii) Dhamania (Bayad), (iv) Gorwada (Himatnagar) and (v) Jitpur (Modasa).

1. *Preliminary Project Report on Rural Water Supply Schemes of Gujarat State*, (1965), p. 14.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 20.

Thereafter the following villages are proposed to be covered :

	Village	*Taluka*
(i)	Gopal Kuuj	Bhiloda
(ii)	Ado-Hathrol	do
(iii)	Dhuleta	do
(iv)	Gabat	Bayad
(v)	Akrund	do
(vi)	Dungri	Idar
(vii)	Dharola-Chamanada	Meghraj
(viii)	Jitpur (No. 2)	Modasa
(ix)	Rupal	Himatnagar

Thus, out of 212 villages under "No-source category", the water supply schemes in 14 villages will soon be started. Moreover, 93 other villages will be covered under simple well construction programme.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY

The Himatnagar Waterworks

Before Independence, piped water supply was available only in Himatnagar. The waterworks were started in 1936 during the princely regime. Three step-wells and four wells were constructed by the State to supply water to the town population. The waterworks were handed over to the Town Municipality in the year 1950. On an average 1.75 lakh gallons of water is supplied everyday to the town population through 2300 water connections. The Nagar Panchayat is to construct tube-wells to cope with the future requirements of drinking water supply.

The Modasa Waterworks

The scheme for waterworks at Modasa was sanctioned by Government in 1966. It is designed to serve an anticipated population of 40,000. The scheme which is now nearing completion is estimated to cost Rs. 10 lakhs. Piped water supply from public stands is available to the town population from 1st April, 1971. The water is supplied from 2 wells which were specially dug up for the purpose. They are 20 feet × 43 feet and are connected with 100 feet long gallery. Water from these wells is pumped out and is distributed through pipe-lines to the stand-posts inside the town. The work is completed except for the R. C. C. over-head. The capacity of the waterworks is 2·5 lakh gallons of water per hour.

The Prantij Waterworks

The scheme for the waterworks was sanctioned by Government in 1965. It has been designed for the anticipated population of 18,000 at the

rate of 30 gallons of water *per capita* per day. At this rate, the ultimate demand would be 5,40,000 gallons of water per day.

The work is nearing completion and is estimated to cost Rs. 4·39 lakhs.

The water supply scheme for Talod is approved long back but due to financial difficulties of the Nagar Panchayat, the work has not been taken on hand.

To sum up, the water supply position in the Sabarkantha district cannot be considered sound. In bigger towns, the Nagar Panchayats supply water through pipelines but in villages, open wells are used for water supply purposes. As most of the areas in the district are rocky, Government has framed a programme with the assistance of UNICEF to drill tube-wells in such rocky areas. Under this scheme, 56 tube-wells with hand-pumps are to be drilled to ensure easy supply of water in villages.

Summary

The district has generally dry and healthy climate. However, epidemics like cholera, plague, influenza, etc., prevailed in the past and claimed many lives. Common diseases like intermittent and remittent fevers, parasitic diseases such as itch, ringworm, eye diseases and dysentery were also prevalent. Health and sanitation standards were low and medical facilities were inadequate.

In 1904, there were 18 public dispensaries in the district. In 1928, the Idar State established a well-equipped hospital at Himatnagar and subsequently three public dispensaries at Idar, Vadali and Bayad and Ayurvedic dispensaries at Meghraj, Kadiadra and Poshina. There were two Ayurvedic dispensaries at Khedbrahma and Raigadh which were given grant-in-aid by the State. However, the total picture of medical facilities was not inspiring.

Efforts were made after Independence to offer more and better medical facilities to the people. As a result, the number of medical institutions rose to 35 by the end of the First Plan period, 42 by the end of the Second Plan period and 54 by the end of the Third Plan period.

Before Independence, there were no adequate facilities for water supply. The district had the maximum number of villages having no regular source of water supply. No waterworks existed in rural areas. Attempts in this direction were made after Independence, especially after the introduction of the Five Year Plans. Efforts are now directed to provide simple well water supply to each village in the district.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Social services other than medical, educational, etc., which are dealt with earlier, form the subject matter of this chapter. These include labour welfare, prohibition, welfare of the Backward Classes, etc. Such welfare services are a new phase of public activities which have been assuming greater importance especially after Independence.

Activities for the welfare of the common man which existed in the former times were limited in extent and operation, because the State was a police State maintaining primarily the law and order. After Independence, the State has switched over to the welfare State. Government has, therefore, undertaken various measures for the amelioration of conditions and prospects of the backward sections of society which were hitherto neglected or exploited. The Harijans and others, who were hitherto debarred from the general public life, are given equal opportunities under the Constitution. For the welfare of the working class, a number of labour welfare measures have been undertaken. As a measure of social reform, the Constitution further provides for introduction of prohibition of liquor and other intoxicants. These measures are dealt with below.

LABOUR WELFARE

The problem of labour welfare is of recent origin which has assumed greater importance with the impact of industrialisation and urbanisation. As compared to the past when every worker was a self-employed artisan, the status and condition of a worker have changed much to his disadvantage. He has now become an ordinary wage-earner as he can not stand the competition from the mechanised sector. By the division of labour and the consequent manufacture of only a part of the product by each workman, an artisan does not get the full psychological satisfaction of manufacturing a product completely by himself Thus, in the midst of apparent prosperity and a phenomenal increase in goods and wealth, there have arisen several maladjustments. Problems like unemployment, under-employment, exploitation of women and children on a large scale, insanitary and unsafe working conditions, physical ailments, industrial diseases, risk to life and limb by accidents and social and moral degradation have cropped up as a result of mechanisation of industries. These evils of industrialisation have created a number of labour problems. However, the intensity of these problems is not acutely experienced in this district which has not made much headway in industrialisation.

The Government have come forward to protect the workers and to establish good relations between employers and employees by settling disputes for the welfare of the society in general. For this purpose, various labour laws as described below have been enacted.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Labour legislation at present in force in the Sabarkantha district may be broadly classified under the following groups.

I Laws relating to children and women workers.

II. Laws relating to specific industries such as :

1. Factories and Workshops.
2. Mines and Minerals.
3. Transport,
4. Shops and Commercial Establishments.
5. Construction works.

III Laws relating to specific matters such as :

1. Wages.
2. Social security comprising Workmen's Compensation. Maternity Benefits. Insurance. Bonus Scheme. etc..
3. Welfare.
4. Housing.
5. Forced labour

IV Laws relating to organisations ;

1. Trade Unions.
2. Industrial Relations.

V Laws relating to statistics.

The following enactments of labour welfare are at present applied to the district.

1. The Indian Boilers Act, 1923
2. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923
3. The Trade Unions Act. 1926
4. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936
5. The Employment of Children Act, 1938
6. The Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946

7. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
8. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
9. The Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948
10. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948
11. The Factories Act, 1948
12. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948
13. The Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952
14. The Mines Act, 1952
15. The Working Journalists (Conditions of Services and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955.
16. The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959
17. The Gujarat Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1961
18. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
19. The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961
20. The Gujarat Smoke Nuisance Act, 1963
21. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
22. The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.

Of these, the important enactments are described below :

The Maternity Benefit Act The Maternity Benefit Act of 1929 as amended in 1961 was made applicable to this district in 1964. The Act regulates the employment of women for certain periods before and after child-birth and provides maternity benefits on the basis of average wage for a fixed period of 12 weeks of which not more than 6 weeks should precede delivery. The Maternity Benefit Act is applied to all industries to which the Factories Act is applicable.

The Bombay Shops and Establishments Act of 1948 The Bombay Shops and Establishments Act of 1948 was first applied in 1959 to the areas of the Himatnagar and the Modasa Nagar Panchayats. It was applied to Idar in 1961, to Dhanśura, Prantij and Vadali in 1964 and to Talod in 1965. The Act limits the hours of work in shops and commercial establishments and provides for a paid weekly holiday, besides prohibiting employment of any child below 12 years.

The Industrial Disputes Act of 1947—The Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 is enacted to settle labour disputes through conciliation, adjudication or arbitration. Under this Act a Conciliation Officer is appointed who tries to settle the industrial disputes arising in his jurisdiction. If settlement by conciliation is not possible, the disputed case is referred to a Court of Inquiry or Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. The Act imposes restrictions on strikes and lock-outs declared during the pendency of conciliation

or adjudication proceedings. The number of complaints received in the district under this Act was only one during the year 1967.

The Factories Act of 1948—The Factories Act of 1948 lays down the minimum requirements regarding the health, safety and general welfare of workers and fixes their working hours besides providing for specific welfare measures such as rest, shelters, canteens, first-aid appliances, washing facilities, etc.

There were five trade unions, with a total membership of 410, registered under the Trade Unions Act, 1926, at the end of the year 1969.

The Provident Funds Act of 1952—The Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952 was made applicable to the district in 1961. The Provident Fund Scheme covered 30 establishments in the district employing 1,077 persons, 405 of whom contributed to the Provident Fund. The following statement gives the distribution of establishments, employees and subscribers, industry wise.

STATEMENT XVII·1

Provident Fund Scheme

Sl. No.	Category of Industry	Number of Establishments	Number of Employees	Number of Subscribers
1	Edible Oil and Fat	20	716	119
2	Stone Quarry	2	21	5
3	Trading and Commercial Establishments	2	77	66
4	China Clay	2	13	7
5	Bank	1	211	199
6	Cinema	1	15	5
7	Hotel	1	20	1
8	Printing	1	4	3
	Total	**30**	**1,017**	**405**

Source :

Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Gujarat State.

PROHIBITION

Before Independence, there was no prohibition in the area now comprising the Sabarkantha district. The State of Idar owned a distillery. It was worked by the Ijardars who supplied liquor to the State at a fixed rate. The State took up the management of the manufacture and supply of liquor in 1932, when the Ijardars left the State. There was a separate department of Excise in the Idar State under the Excise Commissioner. Under him, there were two Excise Superintendents, one each at Himatnagar and Idar.

Liquor was consumed mostly by the Adivasi population which is spread in the eastern and northern areas of the district. To some extent it was consumed by Rajputs and other castes; among the Adivasis it was a customary practice to serve liquor to the guests during social ceremonies like marriage, etc. The drinking habit was thus confined to a few castes and, therefore, did not very much affect the life of the people at large.

After Independence, as a national policy prohibition was introduced in this district as in other parts of Gujarat in April, 1950, under the Bombay Prohibition Act of 1949.

Objectives and Working of the Prohibition Act

The legislation in respect of prohibition is brought into force primarily with a view to eliminating the drink and drug vice from the State. It also aims at raising the standard of living of the people, besides rehabilitating the home life of the addicts. The work of enforcement of prohibition is entrusted to the police in addition to their normal duities.

Under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, the import, export, transport, purchase, possession, use, consumption and manufacture of intoxicants are prohibited in the State except under a licence or a permit. The Act, however, provides for the grant of permits for the possession, use and consumption of foreign liquor by foreigners, tourists, visitors and those requiring liquor either for medical purpose or on grounds of health. The manufacture, sale, consumption etc., of country spirit is not permitted except for sacramental purposes. Permits for sacramental wine required by the Jews, the Christians and the Parsis for religious purposes are granted in accordance with the provisions of the rules made in this behalf. Licences and permits for the possession and use of alcohol for industrial educational, medical and research purposes are also granted.

The State Government has constituted a State Prohibition Board which functions to educate and organize public opinion on problems of prohibition and to advise Government in matters relating to enforcement of prohibition. The State Government has also constituted a District Prohibition Committee to advise the administration in the matter of grant of certain licences under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. The District Prohibition Committee also co-ordinates the activities of the departments of Panchayats, Prohibition and Police under this law.

Benefits of Prohibition

The introduction of total prohibition has brought in its wake the social and economic welfare of the people. The standard of living of the poorer classes of the district has greatly improved. They now eat better

food, put on better clothes, purchase land, farm equipment and live-stock. The money which was formerly used for drinking liquor is thus now used for constructive purposes. Most of the ex-addicts have paid their old debts. The number of crimes committed under influence of drink has greatly declined. Prohibition has brought peace and happiness to many homes. By and large the use of liquor on festivals, marriage, etc., by the Adivasis has almost declined. The tribals confess that prohibition has brought for them health and happiness. A majority of the people, who were addicted to drink are free from the evil effects of intoxicants. More and more of their children go to schools. The women-folk are happier because they are free from the beatings and harassment from their drunken husbands. Prohibition has thus resulted in lesser family tensions, better relations at home, greater and proper care of children, almost complete absence of street brawls and of quarrelsome atmosphere of the neighbourhoods and above all, in general peace and tranquility, particularly among the groups once noted for drinking.

Prohibition Offences

A total of 1,384 prohibition offences were detected during the year 1968-69 of which 842 related to drunkenness and 458 related to illicit import, export or possession of liquor. The rest concerned hemp drugs and opium. The cases detected were thus mainly for illicit distillation, possession or for other miscellaneous offences under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. Prohibition offences recorded in the district between 1962-63 and 1970-71 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT XVII-2

Prohibition Offences

Year	Illicit import, export, transport, possession and distillation of liquor	Drunkenness	Miscellaneous offences	Opium	Hemp drugs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1962-63	582	465	138	1	15	1,201
1963-64	380	406	104	4	12	906
1964-65	494	535	144	1	12	1,186
1965-66	431	663	101	1	10	1,206
1966-67	462	684	53	2	5	1,206
1967-68	341	629	48	9	10	1,037
1968-69	458	842	64	4	16	1,384
1969-70	520	655	27	1	1	1,204
1970-71	559	894	43	3	17	1,516

Source :
Director of Prohibition and Excise, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad.

The overall increase in the offences detected shows the stricter vigilance by the Government in bringing the offenders to book. However, the topography of this district and its proximity to the Rajasthan areas provide ample facilities for the illicit distillation on the river beds and hills.

Set-up and Activities of the Department

The administration of the prohibition laws is entrusted to the Directorate of Prohibition and Excise working under the supervison of Government in the Education and Labour Department. The District Inspector of Prohibition and Excise, Sabarkantha with its headquarters at Himatnagar is in actual charge of the work of the department in the district. He has under him one Prohibition and Excise sub-Inspector with his office at Prantij. The District Inspector and sub-Inspector of Prohibition and Excise have been invested with certain powers under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, the Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, the Spirituous Preparations (Inter State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955, and the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955. The District Inspector of Prohibition and Excise is also the Secretary of the Sabarkantha District Prohibition Committee.

The District Inspector of Prohibition and Excise, Sabarkantha and the sub-Inspector of Prohibition and Excise, Prantij have been authorised under section 123 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 in their areas to arrest, without warrant any person, whom they have reason to believe to be guilty of an offence under the Act, and to seize and detain any article of contraband. The officer so authorised, when he arrests any person or seizes and detains any article has to immediately forward such person or articles, to the officer-in-charge of the nearest police station.

To propagate the benefits of prohibition, some parts of the district are covered under a scheme regarding educational work on prohibition. This scheme is being implemented by the Nashabandhi Mandal, Gujarat. One Nashabandhi Niyojak has been appointed by the Nashabandhi Mandal for this area. Similarly, the Poshina area of Khedbrahma taluka is covered under a scheme which provides for educational propaganda in connection with prohibition. The scheme is being implemented by the Nashabandhi Mandal, Gujarat. A Nashabandhi Niyojak has been appointed in this area for the purpose of educational propaganda.

BACKWARD CLASSES

The Backward Classes may be classified into two classes · the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The predominant Scheduled Castes in the district are Chamars or Rohits and Vankars. The total population of the Scheduled Castes in the district according to the Census of 1971 is

102,158 which forms 8·60 per cent of the district population. The Scheduled Tribes claim 178,804 or 15·06 per cent of the total population of the district and 4·79 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes of the State. The predominant Scheduled Tribes in the district are Bhil, Naikda or Nayaka including Bhil Garasia and Dungri Garasia, who are generally known as Adivasis. Thus more than one-fifth of the total population in the district comprises Backward Classes. Four talukas of the district, *viz.*, Khedbrahma Meghraj, Bhiloda and Vijaynagar are declared as Scheduled areas because of their predominant Adivasi population.

Advancement of Backward Classes

Before Independence activities for the welfare of the Backward Classes in the district were limited to a few social workers like the late Shri Mathuradas Gandhi, Motilal Tejavat, Narsinhbhai Bhavsar, Parikshitlal Majmudar, etc., who had made sincere efforts for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes. In 1947, Shri Mathuradas Gandhi set up the 'Adivasi Seva Samiti' at Shamalaji, under the presidentship of the late Shri Parikshitlal Majmudar. The efforts made by Shri Gandhi and other social workers went a long way in ameliorating the conditions and prospects of the Adivasis. The work of the Sarvodaya scheme sponsored by the Bombay Government was also entrusted to this institution. Under this scheme, 70 schools were started in the Adivasi areas of Bhiloda and Meghraj talukas for imparting education to the Adivasi children.

But apart from this, no special efforts were made by the Government or the public at large for the amelioration of the Backward Classes. When Mahatma Gandhi awakened the social conscience of this country by stressing the need and urgency of promoting the well-being of these under-privileged classes, a new chapter on welfare of the Backward Classes was opened.

Inspite of the efforts of social and political workers, the evil of untouchability prevailed in this district, as in other parts of the country. The social disabilities were accompanied by wide economic disabilities. Opportunities for their betterment were practically denied.

Since Independence, the conditions of Harijans and Adivasis have improved considerably both economically and socially as a result of intensive work done by social workers and of various socio-economic and legislative measures undertaken by Government to ameliorate their conditions. In addition to these enactments which are in force in Gujarat, activities designed to bring home to the general public the evils of untouchability are also undertaken by celebration of the Harijan week, award of prizes to villages doing outstanding work for the removal of untouchability, grant-in-aid to voluntary agencies working for the eradication of untouchability, etc. The general attitude of the people towards Harijans has also

changed for the better, more so in towns than in villages. They are treated on par with other members of society in public functions or places of entertainment. Their children are now admitted without discrimination, to schools and colleges. They can get the highest position in the State and public bodies. In sum, they are being gradually accepted in society on the basis of social equality and the former serious handicaps from which they suffered are slowly but surely being removed. Their housing conditions have appreciably improved as a result of various housing schemes sponsored by the Government and local bodies. As will be seen later, their economic condition is also improving due to various concessions given by the State to overcome the disabilities from which they suffered in the past.

The national Government has initiated various measures to reduce the social inequality between different classes. The Constitution of India provides for the Directive Principles of State Policy which lay down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (vide Article 46). The Fundamental Rights embodied in the Constitution provide for abolition of untouchability and its practice in any form is forbidden.

The enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability has been made punishable as an offence. The Harijans are treated on par with the others as a result of the enforcement of the Untouchability Offences Act, 1955 and the Bombay Hindu Places of Public Worship Entry Authorisations Act of 1956 which are now in force in the State

To ensure equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment, the Constitution has laid down that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for or discriminated against, in respect of any employment or office under the State. It is now being recognised that nobody becomes an untouchable by birth or on account of his following a particular avocation.

The Government of Gujarat has taken up several schemes for raising social, educational and economic standards of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Their representatives are associated in the State Advisory Board for Harijan Welfare, the Tribes Advisory Council, the Tribal Development Block Advisory Committee, etc.

Welfare Schemes for the Backward Classes

The existing schemes for the welfare of the Backward Classes can be broadly classified into schemes for (i) educational and cultural uplift, (ii) economic uplift, and (iii) health, housing and other schemes.

(i) Under the schemes of educational and cultural uplift, tuition fees and examination fees are granted to the Backward Class students. To encourage bright students, scholarships are awarded every year. Lumpsum stipends for books are also given. Liberal grants for construction of hostels for Backward Class students are sanctioned by the State. In 1971, the number of such hostels was 24 in the district. Besides, the district has 8 Ashramshalas one each at Ambamahuda, Atarsumba, Demti, Varthali, Isari and Hajipur and two at Khedbrahma. The Ashramshalas are generally opened in the interior areas having no primary schools. The students are provided free lodging, boarding and medical facilities.

(ii) Most of the Backward Classes in this district are either agriculturists or landless labourers or artisans. Their condition can be improved only through schemes which have a direct bearing on their economic activity. Keeping this in view, the programme for their economic uplift includes the following schemes.

(1) agricultural schemes,
(2) financial assistance to cottage industry and professions, and
(3) financial assistance to co-operative societies.

Under the agricultural schemes, financial assistance is given to cultivators for digging wells, purchasing oil-pumps, engines, agricultural implements, bullocks, bullock-carts, etc., as well as for minor irrigation purposes. Similar assistance is given for cottage industries and co-operative societies started by the Backward Classes.

(iii) Under the head 'Health, Housing and Other Schemes', there are 5 schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes only, *viz.*, construction of drinking water wells, medical aid, eradication of the practice of carrying night-soil as head-load, provision of house-sites, and housing subsidy for sweepers and scavengers. The special schemes for the Scheduled Tribes include construction of roads, bridges, and culverts and establishment of subsidiary health units. Free legal assistance is given to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in civil and criminal proceedings.

The total expenditure incurred under these schemes amounted to Rs. 3·99 lakhs during the First and Second Plan periods.[1] During the Third Plan period, the expenditure increased to Rs. 16·59 lakhs. The details about the expenditure incurred separately for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes during the Third Plan period and thereafter upto 1970-71 are given below.

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1. Director of Information, Government of Gujarat, *Pragatina Panthe*, 1967, p. 48.

STATEMENT XVII-3

Expenditure incurred for the Welfare of the Backward Classes

Sl. No.	Expenditure under different heads	Expenditure in Rs. (lakhs) incurred during Third Five Year Plan				Expenditure in Rs. (lakhs) incurred between 1966-67 and 1970-71			
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes	Total	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Education, Examination Fees and Scholarship	4.71	3.58	1.36	9.95	2.65	3.82	1.29	7.76
2	Purchase of Bullocks ..	0.04	0.19	0.02	0.25	..	..	..	..
3	Purchase of Agricultural Implements	0.06	0.02	..	0.08	..	..	..	..
4	Trade and Industries ..	0.12	0.69	0.08	0.89	0.09	0.17	0.02	0.28
5	Drinking Water Wells ..	0.19	0.36	.	0.55	..	..	..	..
6	Medical Aid ..	0.02	0.26	..	0.28	0.01	0.08	..	0.09
7	Hostels	0.64	1.54	..	2.18	0.43	1.36	0.03	1.82
8	Oil Pumps and Rahats	0.12	0.36	..	0.48	0.10	0.35	..	0.45
9	Irrigation Wells ..	0.20	1.30	..	1.50	..	0.02	..	0.02
10	Sanskar Kendras ..	..	..	0.01	0.01	..	..	..	..
11	Purchase of Fertilisers ..	..	0.02	..	0.02	..	..	..	..
12	Balwadi	0.07	0.01	0.04	0.12	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.21
13	Miscellaneous	0.28	..	..	0.28	0.31	0.09	0.14	0.54
	Total	**6.45**	**8.63**	**1.51**	**16.59**	**3.65**	**5.98**	**1.54**	**11.17**

Source :

Director of Social Welfare, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad.

Reservation of Seats for the Backward Classes

After Independence, the Government felt that in order to enable the members of the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes to get employment in public services, certain concessions should be offered to them. Before the formation of the Gujarat State when the district formed part of the erstwhile Bombay State, the Government of Bombay had fixed the following minimum percentages for reservation of seats in Government service for the Backward Classes in accordance with the provisions made under Article 335 of the Constitution of India.

Sl. No.	Category of Service	Percentage of vacancies to be reserved in recruitment
1.	All Class I and II services and posts thereunder ..	12½
2.	Class III Service :	
	(i) Scheduled Castes	6
	(ii) Scheduled Tribes	7
	(iii) Other Backward Classes	9
3.	Class IV Service :	
	(i) Scheduled Castes	7
	(ii) Scheduled Tribes	9
	(iii) Other Backward Classes	11

After the bifurcation of the former Bombay State in 1960, the Government of Gujarat continued these reservation percentages till 1969, when the Government increased these concessions. The resultant changes which are in force at present, are as follows :

In the case of the State level posts, the Government has fixed[1] the reservation percentages for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the whole State as under.

Sl. No.	Category	Classification of services and percentage of reservation		
		Class I & II	Class III	Class IV
1	Scheduled Castes	5	7	7
2	Scheduled Tribes	10	14	14

As the statement indicates, the reservation percentages are reduced in the case of Class I and Class II posts. In the case of the Scheduled Castes, there is no material change as far as reservation percentages for Class III

1. Government of Gujarat, General Administration Department, Resolution No. BAC-1064-3373-Ch, dated 20th September, 1969.

and Class IV services are concerned. But the reservation percentages in the case of the Scheduled Tribes have been doubled in the case of Class III services and raised from 9 to 14 in the case of Class IV for them. Thus the percentages have been changed, having regard to the population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

In case of the district level posts, the percentages of reservation of seats are the same for the Scheduled Tribes. For the Scheduled Castes, however, the percentage is fixed at 9 for Class III and Class IV posts.

Administrative Set-up

Till 1963, when the Panchayati Raj was introduced in Gujarat, activities for the welfare of the Backward Classes were conducted by the Social Welfare Department. The departmental head was designated as the Director of Social Welfare, who had under him in his office one Deputy Director, one Personal Assistant, one Officer-in-charge of Backward Classes and Tribal Welfare and two Social Welfare Officers, in addition to the District Social Welfare Officers at the district headquarters.

This position was radically changed on account of the introduction of the Panchayati Raj with effect from 1st April, 1963, when almost all the welfare schemes of non-technical nature were transferred to the District Panchayats with the necessary staff At present, every District Panchayat in the State is allotted the post of a Social Welfare Officer to implement various welfare schemes in the Panchayat areas.

Till 1965, welfare activities for the Backward Classes were conducted by the Directorate of Social Welfare which had under it two wings (1) the Backward Class Welfare Wing and (2) Correctional Administration Wing. In 1965, the Backward Class Welfare Wing was separated and made an independent Directorate known as the Directorate of Backward Class Welfare. In 1968, the separate Directorate of Backward Class Welfare was abolished and the work was transferred to the newly formed directorate named as the Directorate of Social Welfare. In 1969, this directorate was once again bifurcated and a new directorate for Backward Classes was formed named as the Directorate of Harijan and Adivasi Welfare In 1970, this directorate was re-designated as Directorate of Social Welfare. It looks after the welfare activities of the Backward Classes. The Officer at the district level working under this directorate is designated as Social Welfare Officer.

PUBLIC TRUSTS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

From early days the State authorities interested themselves in the affairs of religious and charitable institutions and exercised supervision and

control over them besides providing means for their maintenance and upkeep. However, there was no centralized supervision over public trusts in the State.

In 1935-36, during the former Bombay State, the following Central and State laws were enacted for supervision and control over public trusts : (1) the Bombay Public Trusts Registration Act, 1935 applicable to the public trusts existing for the benefit of the Hindu community; (2) the Musalman Wakf (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1935 applicable to Muslim Wakfs, and (3) the Parsi Public Trusts Registration Act, 1936 applicable to the public trusts existing for the benefit of the Parsi community. Prior to these laws the Central enactments applicable to all the public trusts in the State were the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, and the provisions of sections 92 and 93 of the Civil Procedure Code.

Thus before Independence, the machinery for exercising supervision and control over the public trusts varied according to the communities for whose benefit these trusts were created. In 1950, the Bombay Legislature passed the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, with a view to covering all trusts irrespective of caste, creed or community and to introduce uniformity in their supervision and control. The public trusts in Sabarkantha are at present governed by this Act which has several new features. Unlike the previous enactments on the subject, it applies to all communities, in keeping with the principles laid down in the Constitution about the uniformity of civil laws and provides for a uniform machinery for exercising supervision and control by the State over the management of the public trusts. The definition of 'Public Trusts' has been widened so as to include the societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Act provides for the establishment of special machinery for dealing with all matters concerning the administration and management of public trusts, and working under the administrative control of the Legal Department. It provides for compulsory registration of all public trusts and for the appointment of a Charity Commissioner for the State and Deputy and Assistant Charity Commissioners for regions and sub-regions into which the State is divided for administrative convenience. The Sabarkantha district which forms part of the Ahmedabad region is looked after by the Deputy Charity Commissioner, Ahmedabad.

Till February 1971, the total number of trusts rtgistered in the district was 950, of which 323 were Hindu trusts, 136 were Muslim trusts and the rest were cosmopolitan trusts or societies Some of the important among them are described below.

The Adivasi Seva Samiti, Shamalaji—The trust was registered in 1957. It works for the welfare of the Adivasis and conducts a number of

educational and social institutions including Ashramshalas, Balwadis, adult education classes, *gaushalas* and agricultural demonstration centres at various places in the district. The trust has total assets worth Rs. 1,068,000.

The Jan Seva Sangh, Bhiloda—The trust was established in 1950 with a view to promoting economic, social and educational activities in the Bhiloda taluka. For this purpose, it conducts various activities and runs a number of educational institutions. It has total funds amounting to Rs. 38,516.

The Seva Mandal Meghraj, Kasana—The trust was registered in 1955. It conducts activities to promote the general welfare of the people. For this purpose, it runs a dispensary at Kasana, *Khadi Bhandars* at Kasana and Meghraj and organises Khadi and Gramodyog activities at various places in the Meghraj taluka. It also undertakes relief measures in the event of natural calamities. The trust has total assets worth Rs. 48,500.

The Seva Niketan, Khedbrahma—The trust was established in 1965. It works for the welfare of the Adivasis residing in the district. It runs Ashramshalas and Balwadis at various places in the Adivasi areas, arranges *shibirs*, holiday camps, lectures, etc., propagates the benefits of prohibition, removal of untouchability, etc., and undertakes relief measures in the event of natural calamities. The trust has assets worth Rs. 2,25,000.

The Shamalaji Hindu Vishnu Mandir, Shamalaji—The trust was registered in 1951. It has been established mainly for the maintenance and upkeep of the Shamalaji temple and other properties. It also runs *gaushalas* at Shamalaji and manages *dharmashalas*, etc., for providing facilities to the pilgrims. The trust has assets worth Rs. 257,243.

The Vishva Mangalam, (Akodara)—The Vishva Mangalam was established in 1960. It works for the educational uplift of the people of the district. It conducts various activities and runs several educational institutions. The trust has total assets worth Rs. 237,042.

The Vividh Bharati, Poshina—The trust was established in 1962 with a view to improving social and economic conditions of the Adivasis. For this purpose, it conducts a number of educational institutions and cultural activities in the district. It spends about Rs. 86,000 every year to maintain these institutions

PART VII

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

PUBLIC LIFE

During the former days of the princely regime, public life in this district was neither active nor organised. The rules coming as they were from hereditary kingship hardly did anything to encourage public participation in the affairs of their states. On the contrary, such efforts at orgainsing public opinion initiated by a citizen or an institution were nipped in the bud. Of all the princely States and estates merged in the district, Idar was the biggest. It was not very much progressive in its outlook and its rulers were anxious to ensure that the freedom movement did not infiltrate into their territory. Those who tried to raise their voice against the State policies were expelled from the territory.[1] Moreover, the Adivasi population being backward took no interest and initiative in public life. As a result, there were very few social workers who could mould public opinion.

During the early part of the 20th century, when the democratic influences began to be felt in the neighbouring areas under the British administration, primarily Modasa, the princely States like Idar, for the most part remained unaffected as it was the policy of the Indian National Congress, not to interfere in the affairs of the princely States.

However, vigorous efforts to mould public opinion were made by the late Shri Mathuradas L. Gandhi, popularly known as Gandhi Dada of Modasa. Shri Gandhi started organising the national movement in the district by propagating the use of *swadeshi* and the boycott of foreign articles. In 1921, he opened a Swadeshi Bhandar at Modasa. As a result of his movement, people of Modasa took a vow in 1922 to abstain from using foreign articles for a period of 6 months. In the following year, a Taluka Congress Committee was established at Modasa for organising national movement. In 1922, Shri Gandhi contested the elections for the Municipality, the Taluka Local Board and the District Local Board and was elected to all the three bodies. As a member of these public bodies, he did significant work to organise public life.

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1. PATHAK RAMNARAYAN AND DESAI SHANTILAL, (Editors), *Gujaratman Rachnatmak Sansthao Ane Sevako*, (1970), p. 291.

After 1930, Modasa came into limelight when Sarva Shri Bhogilal Gandhi, Harilal Gandhi, Ramanlal Soni, Shankerlal Sura, Gopaldas Sura, Punamchand Pandya, Chandulal Chhotalal, Purushottamdas and several others joined the freedom movement which was gaining momentum at the national level after the commencement of the famous Dandi-march of Gandhiji on 12th March, 1930. During the same year the people of Modasa established "Modasa Pradesh Seva Sangh" for organising social and political activities in the district.

As seen earlier, Idar which was the biggest State in the district was orthodox in its outlook. The people were very much discontented due to the policies of oppression pursued by the rulers. A memorandum was, therefore, presented to the Idar ruler in 1910 to redress their grievances. As no response was received from the ruler, the citizens observed a general strike to demonstrate their displeasure and discontent. The strike lasted for 32 days, during which period the leaders of the movement were treated high-handedly by the authority. One of them, Kavi Neelkanth who was arrested died in the State Jail.[1]

The discontent of the people continued as the State policy of oppression did not change. This led to the establishment of the 'Idar Praja Mandal' at Bombay in February, 1925. Shri Mathurdas Gandhi wrote a series of articles in national dailies to bring into light the miseries of the people of Idar. He also addressed an open letter to the Idar ruler and asked him to redress the grievances.[2] Some concessions were offered to the people by the ruler in 1926. The State agreed to institute an Inquiry Committee to look into the demands and grievances of the people. This committee was headed by Shri Mathuradas Gandhi. But the committee could not function due to the non-co-operative attitude of the State Diwan.[3] The Praja Mandal started to publish its official periodical named as "*Prajamat*" to mould public opinion and organise it properly. Due to the efforts of the Mandal, a conference of the representatives of people known as the Round Table Conference was called by the State in June, 1930. It was promised on behalf of the State that the peoples' representatives will be consulted in policy matters. But this was never done.

Simultaneously, with the spread of Gandhiji's movement of non-violence and non-co-operation, social workers like Shri Motilal Tejawat,

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1 GANDHI BHOGILAL AND GANDHI RAMANLAL H., *Purusharthani Pratima*, (1959), p. 226.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 227.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 244.

the well-known Bhil-Sevak of Rajasthan and Shri Narsinhbhai Bhavsar of Vadali came forward and helped Shri Mathuradas Gandhi to start constructive activities for the welfare of the down-trodden Adivasis.

The national movement gathered momentum after 1938 when the Indian National Congress changed its policy of non-interference in the affairs of the princely States. The Idar Praja Mandal, which was functioning from Bombay shifted its headquarters to Idar and Himatnagar and the movement was then conducted with greater vigour, till the State was merged in the Bombay State in 1948.

Public opinion became more properly organised and vocal after Independence. With the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution people got encouragement to express their views freely on all matters. They began to realise gradually the far-reaching importance of their own views and decisions in the democratic set-up of the State. The adult franchise gave every grown-up individual a right to vote and elect his own representatives in the State and the Union Legislatures. The first General elections held in the country in 1952 brought about a sea change in public life. The introduction of the Panchayati Raj in 1963 went a step further as it enabled the village people to participate in decision-making even at village and taluka levels.

Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislatures

The district had one single-member parliamentary constituency named 'Sabarkantha' in all the General Elections to the Lok Sabha including the mid-term elections held in March, 1971.

As regards the State Legislature, the district had two single-member and two double-member constituencies in the Bombay State Legislative Assembly at the time of the 1952 and 1957 General Elections. One seat in each of the two double-member constituencies was reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. After the formation of the Gujarat State, at the time of the General Elections of 1962. the double-member constituencies were replaced by single-member constituencies and the number of constituencies in the district was raised to seven. In the General Elections of 1967 and 1972, the district was allotted one more Assembly constituency with the result that at present Sabarkantha has eight representatives in the State Assembly. Of the eight constituencies, one (Khedbrahma) is reserved for the Scheduled Tribes and one (Idar) for the Scheduled Castes. The details of the present territorial extent of the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies are given below.

Delimitation of the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies[1]

Sl. No. 1	Name of the Constituency 2	Territorial extent 3
		(A) PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY
1.	Sabarkantha ..	Khedbrahma, Idar, Bhiloda, Himatnagar, Prantij, Modasa and Bayad.
		(B) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES
1.	Khedbrahma (ST) ..	Khedbrahma taluka and Vijaynagar mahal.
2.	Idar (ST) .	Idar taluka (excluding Chitroda circle)
3.	Bhiloda .	Bhiloda taluka and Chitroda circle in Idar taluka.
4.	Himatnagar ..	Himatnagar taluka.
5.	Prantij .	Prantij taluka (excluding Mohanpur circle).
6.	Modasa ..	Modasa taluka (excluding 36 villages in Modasa circle included in Meghraj constituency), and Mohanpur circle in Prantij taluka.
7.	Bayad .. .	Bayad taluka.
8.	Meghraj	Meghraj taluka, Malpur mahal, and 36 villages in Modasa circle of Modasa taluka.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

All the political parties contesting elections so far have their affiliations with the all India bodies. There is no party in the district of local origin.

Prior to the Parliamentary elections held in March, 1971, the main political parties in the district were the Indian National Congress, the Swatantra and the Praja Socialists. The position has since changed with the split in the Congress and the formation of two rival Congress parties popularly known as the Congress (Organisational) and the Congress (Ruling). A study of the election results of 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1971 and 1972 reveals the relative hold of the various political parties in the district.

General Elections of 1952

In the first General Elections of 1952 there were two main political parties, *viz.*, the Indian National Congress and the Socialists. Out of the six Assembly seats in the district, five were won by the Congress and the remaining one by an independent candidate. The Socialist party which contested three Assembly seats could not secure any seat. The Parliamentary seat was also won by the Congress. The percentage of voting was 54·12 in the Parliamentary constituency and 49·40 in the Assembly constituencies.

1. *The Gujarat Government Gazette*, Vol VII, No. 13, Part IV-C, dated 31st March, 1966, pp. 560, 569, 570.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them in the General Elections of 1952.

Sl. No.	Name of the constituencies	Party affiliation of contesting candidates	Total votes polled	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate	Percentage to total votes polled
1	2	3	4	5	6
		HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)			
1.	Sabarkantha ..	1. Congress ..	2,01,468	1,06,048	52.64
		2. Independent ..	..	83,674	41.53
		3. Socialist ..	..	11,746	5.83
		LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY			
1.	Idar	1. Independent .	30,715	14,321	46.63
		2. Congress ..	..	13,196	42.96
		3. Socialist .	..	1,770	5.76
		4. Independent ..	..	1,428	4.65
2.	Prantij-Bayad-Malpur (Double-member)	1. Congress ..	54,029	31,041	56.51
		2. Independent ..	.	23,888	43.49
		3. Congress ..	.	Uncontested	..
3.	Modasa-Meghraj ..	1. Congress .	32,559	20,611	63.30
		2. Independent ..	..	10,212	31.37
		3. Socialist ..	..	1,736	5.33
4.	Himatnagar (Double-member)	1. Congress ..	83,378	28,625	34.33
		2. Congress ..	..	25,197	30.22
		3. Independent .	..	23,028	27.62
		4. Socialist ..	..	3,545	4.25
		5. Socialist ..	..	2,983	3.58

Source :

Report on the General Elections, 1952, Election Commission, Government of India, pp. 28, 29, 264, 265.

General Elections of 1957

In the second General Elections of 1957, the Congress was the only contesting party alongwith the independent candidates. Out of six Assembly seats, four were won by the Congress and two by the independent candidates. The Parliamentary seat was retained by the Congress The percentage of voting this time was slightly lower than in the previous elections. It was 50·26 in the Parliamentary constituency and 45·32 in the Assembly constituencies.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them in the General Elections of 1957

Sl. No.	Name of the constituencies	Party affiliations of contesting candidates	Total votes polled	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate	Percentage to total votes polled
1	2	3	4	5	6
		HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)			
1.	Sabarkantha ..	1. Congress	1,70,385	88,912	52.18
		2. Independent		81,473	47.82
		LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY			
1.	Bhiloda (Double-member)	1. Independent	96,346	17,710	18.39
		2. Do.		24,805	25.74
		3. Congress		29,594	30.72
		4. Do.		24,228	25.15
2	Idar (Double-member)	1. Independent	1,02,483	21,357	20.84
		2 Congress		31,165	30.41
		3. Do.		31,342	30.58
		4. Independent		18,619	18.17
3.	Bayad ..	1. Independent	29,194	1,336	4.60
		2. Congress		10,906	37.40
		3. Independent		12,268	42.00
		4. Do.		1,772	6.10
		5. Do.		2,912	9.90
4.	Prantij ..	1. Congress	30,247	12,189	40.30
		2. Independent		911	3.10
		3. Do.		10,692	35.30
		4. Do.		3,844	12.70
		5. Do.		2,611	8.60

Source :

Report on the General Elections, 1957, Election Commission, Government of India, pp. 128, 129, 692, 693.

General Elections of 1962

The General Elections of 1962 saw the emergence of the Swatantra party on the political horizon. The contesting parties this time included the Congress, the Swatantra, the Praja Socialists and the Republican. The main contest was, however, between the Congress and the newly formed Swatantra party. Out of the seven Assembly seats the Congress captured six seats while the remaining one went to the Swatantra party. The Parliamentary seat was won by the Congress.

A comparatively larger number of electors exercised their franchise in these elections as compared to the previous ones. Of the total electorate of 4,17,575, about 60·39 per cent exercised their franchise in the Parliamentary constituency and 59·21 in the Assembly constituencies.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them in the General Elections of 1962.

Sl. No. 1	Name of the constituencies 2	Party affiliations of contesting candidates 3	Total votes polled 4	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate 5	Percentage to total votes polled 6
	HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)				
1.	Sabarkantha ..	1. Congress	2,52,158	1,29,468	51.34
		2 Swatantra		1,04,859	41.59
		3. PSP		17,831	7.07
	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY				
1.	Idar (SC) ..	1. Congress	36,907	23,715	64.25
		2. Swatantra		10,503	28.46
		3. PSP		1,442	3.91
		4. Republican		1,247	3.38
2.	Khedbrahma (ST)	1. Congress	24,187	14,544	60.13
		2. Swatantra		8,438	34.89
		3. PSP		1,205	4.98
3.	Bhiloda ..	1. Congress	31,552	16,959	53.75
		2. Swatantra		9,815	31.11
		3. PSP		4,778	15.14
4.	Modasa ..	1. Congress	35,525	14,495	40.81
		2. Swatantra		13,791	38.82
		3. PSP		6,897	19.41
		4. Independent		342	0.97
5	Bayad .	1. Swatantra	47 271	25,241	53.40
		2. Congress		20,614	43.61
		3 PSP		1,416	2.99
6.	Prantij .	1. Congress	41,513	21,871	52.64
		2. Swatantra		13,962	33.61
		3. PSP		3,489	8.40
		4. Independent		1,428	3.44
		5. Independent		793	1.91
7.	Himatnagar .	1. Congress	30 269	19,225	63.15
		2. Swatantra		7,213	23.83
		3. Independent		2,533	8.37
		4. Republican		892	2.95
		5. PSP		406	1.34

Source : *Report on the General Elections*, 1962, Election Commission, Government of India, pp. 28, 185-186.

General Elections of 1967

In the General Elections of 1967, the contesting parties included the Congress, the Swatantra and the Praja Socialists, besides independent candidates. The keen contest, this time too, was between the Congress and the Swatantra candidates. The Swatantra party achieved a major

triumph by securing all the eight Assembly seats in the district alongwith the Parliamentary seat which was lost by the Congress for the first time. The Congress thus lost all the seats in the district. The largest proportion of voters turned out to vote in these elections as compared to all previous elections since 1952. This shows the increasing political awareness among the people of the district. The percentage of voting was 63·64 in the Parliamentary constituency and 63·36 for the Assembly constituencies.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled in the General Elections of 1967.

Sl. No.	Name of the constituencies	Party affiliations of contesting candidates	Total votes polled	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate	Percentage to total votes polled
1	2	3	4	5	6
		HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)			
1	Sabarkantha ..	1. Swatantra	2,64,612	1,51,011	57.07
		2. Congress		1,06,212	40.14
		3. Independent		7,389	2.79
		LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY			
1	Khedbrahma (ST)	1 Swatantra	25,692	17,542	68.28
		2. Congress		8,150	31.72
2	Idar (SC) ..	1. Swatantra	39,549	22,693	57.38
		2. Congress		16,856	42.62
3	Bhiloda ..	1. Swatantra	36,218	20,150	55.64
		2. Congress		16,068	44.36
4	Himatnagar ..	1. Swatantra	41,875	25,313	60.45
		2. Congress		13,853	33.08
		3. Independent		2,709	6.47
5	Prantij ..	1. Swatantra	42,808	26,957	62.97
		2. Congress		15,289	35.72
		3. Independent		562	1.31
6	Modasa ..	1. Swatantra	38,119	15,794	41.43
		2. Congress		12,560	32.95
		3. PSP		8,201	21.51
		4. Independent		807	2.12
		5. Independent		757	1.99
7	Bayad ..	1. Swatantra	36,617	21,113	57.66
		2. Congress		12,836	35 05
		3. Independent		2,668	7.29
8	Meghraj ..	1. Swatantra	39,467	23,483	59.50
		2. Congress		14,319	36.28
		3. PSP		1,071	2.71
		4. Independent		594	1.51

Source :
Report on the General Elections, 1967, Election Commission, Government of India, pp. 41, 243, 244.

Mid-term Parliamentary Elections of 1971

The Lok Sabha Elections held in March, 1971 have brought about a major change in the political field. The familiar contest between the Congress and the anti-Congress parties was replaced by the contest between the Congress (O) and the Congress (R) which were the main parties in these elections. The election was won by the Congress (O) candidate, who defeated the Congress (R) candidate by a margin of 14,378 votes.

General Elections of 1972

The Congress (R) consolidated its position in the General Elections held in March, 1972 by capturing six of the eight Assembly seats. Five political parties, *viz.*, the Congress (R), the Congress (O), the Jana Sangh, the Socialist and the Swatantra besides 16 independent candidates contested the elections. The Congress (O) and the Congress (R) contested all the eight seats, while the Jana Sangh fielded candidates for six, the Swatantra for two and the Socialist for one. The main contest was, however, between the Congress (O) and the Congress (R). Six seats were won by the Congress (R), while the remaining two seats by the Congress (O). The former polled 46·73 per cent of votes, while the latter secured 33·08 per cent. The Jana Sangh could secure 8·64 per cent, the Swatantra 0·61 per cent and the Socialist the least 0·13 per cent. 16 independent candidates together got 10·81 per cent of the total votes.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them.

Sl. No. 1	Name of the constituencies 2	Party affiliations of contesting candidates 3	Total votes polled 4	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate 5	Percentage to total votes polled 6
1	Khedbrahma (ST)	1. Congress	23,393	11,725	50.13
		2. Congress(O)		8,027	34.32
		3. Jana Sangh		3,224	13.78
		4. Socialist		417	1.78
2	Idar (SC) ..	1. Congress	33,585	20,946	62.37
		2. Congress(O)		6,770	20 16
		3. Jana Sangh		5,869	17.47
3	Bhiloda ..	1. Congress	38,519	18,529	48.10
		2. Congress(O)		15,214	39.50
		3. Jana Sangh		1,677	4.35
		4. Independent		1,818	4.72
		5. Do.		1,281	3.33
4	Himatnagar ..	1. Congress	40,371	24,282	60.15
		2. Congress(O)		9.394	23.27
		3. Jana Sangh		4,661	11.54
		4. Independent		1,299	3.22
		5. Do.		735	1.82

Sl. No. 1	Name of the constituencies 2	Party affiliations of contesting candidates 3	Total votes polled 4	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate 5	Percentage to total votes polled 6
5	Prantij ..	1. Congress	47,375	24,536	51.79
		2. Congress(O)		21,111	44.56
		3. Independent		1,728	3.65
6	Modasa ..	1. Congress	45,824	21,965	47.80
		2. Jana Sangh		7,617	16.62
		3. Congress(O)		7,574	16.53
		4. Swatantra		758	1.65
		5. Independent		5,964	13.02
		6. Do.		1,453	3.17
		7. Do.		331	0.72
		8. Do.		222	0.49
7	Bayad ..	1. Congress(O)	41,181	23,475	57.00
		2. Congress		14,815	35.98
		3. Jana Sangh		1,649	4.00
		4. Independent		1,242	3.02
8	Meghraj ..	1. Congress(O)	40,894	11,348	27.75
		2. Congress		8,674	21.21
		3. Jana Sangh		2,191	5.36
		4. Swatantra		1,125	2.75
		5. Independent		7,653	18.71
		6. Do.		5,762	14.09
		7. Do.		1,949	4.77
		8. Do.		1,479	3.62
		9. Do.		411	1.00
		10. Do.		302	0.74

Source :
Collector, Sabarkantha District, Himatnagar.

The following statement shows the results of all General Elections held in the district since 1952.

Votes Polled in the General Elections

Election Year 1	Total No. of electors 2	Total votes polled 3	Percentage of column 3 to column 2 4	Total valid votes polled 5	Percentage of column 5 to column 2 6	Name of the parties 7	Votes polled by parties 8	Percentage to total valid votes polled 9
HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)								
1952	3,72,222	..	..	2,01,468	54.12	Congress	1,06,048	52.64
						Socialist	11,746	5.83
						Independents ..	83,674	41.53
1957	3,39,021	..	..	1,70,385	50.26	Congress .	88,912	52.18
						Independents ..	81,473	47.82

Votes Polled in the General Elections—concld.

Election Year 1	Total No. of electors 2	Total votes polled 3	Percentage of column 3 to column 2 4	Total valid votes polled 5	Percentage of column 5 to column 2 6	Name of the parties 7	Votes polled by parties 8	Percentage to total valid votes polled 9
1962	4,17,575	2,64.137	63.25	2,52.158	60.39	Congress	1,29,468	51.34
						Swatantra	1,04.859	41.59
						PSP	17,831	7.07
1967	4.15,763	2,76,327	66.46	2,64.612	63.64	Congress	1,06.212	40.14
						Swatantra	1.51.011	57.07
						Independents	7,389	2.79
1971	4,50,410	..	..	2,71,304	60.23	Congress (O)	1,37.159	50.56
						Congress (R)	1,22.781	45.25
						Independents	11.364	4.19
				Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha)				
1952	3,10,575	..	..	2.01,581	49.40	Congress	1,18,670	58.87
	4,08,075*	..	..			Socialist	10,034	4.98
	(Votes)					Independents	72,877	36.15
1957	3,39,021	..	..	2.58,270	45.32	Congress	1,39,424	53.98
	5,69,821*					Independents	1,18,846	46.02
	(Votes)							
1962	4,17,575	2,64,070	63.24	2,47.254	59.21	Congress	1,31,423	53.15
						Swatantra	88,963	35.98
						PSP	19.633	7.94
						Republican	2,139	0.37
						Independents	5,096	2.06
1967	4,74,005	3,17,899	67.06	3.00 345	63.36	Congress	1,09,931	36.60
						Swatantra	1,73.045	57.62
						PSP	9,272	3.08
						Independents	8,097	2.70
1972	5,49,212	..	..	3.11,142	56 75	Congress	1,45,412	46.73
						Congress (O)	1,02.913	33.08
						Jana Sangh	26,888	8.64
						Swatantra	1,883	0.61
						Socialist	417	0.13
						Independents	33,629	10.81

* In the General Elections of 1952 and 1957 the district had two double-member constituencies The first figure shows the number of electors while the second one shows the number of votes cast by them. The percentages in column 6 are worked out in relation to the total votes cast.

The percentage of valid votes polled has increased appreciably between 1952 and 1967 as indicated above.

Newspapers

No daily newspaper is published from the district at present. The '*Suvanchhana*' was perhaps the earliest periodical published from the district. It was published during the early part of the present century by the

'Modasa Brotherhood' and was very popular in Sabarkantha. It mainly published articles on the freedom movement and social reforms. Another periodical, the *'Prajamat'* was started in the late twenties by Shri Manibhai Mehta of Godhra, president of the Idar Praja Mandal, to organise public opinion for the freedom movement. Thereafter, two periodicals, *viz.*, the *'Mahikantha'* and the *'Rajasthan Kesari'* were started for the same purpose. These periodicals were published for organising public opinion against the British or princely rulers and were discontinued on achievement of Independence.

As regards weekly newspapers, four Gujarati weeklies are published from the district. The oldest among them, the *'Agekuch'* is published since 1949 from Himatnagar. The *'Arya Jyoti'* is published from Khedbrahma since 1965, the *'Jan Jyoti'* from Idar since 1968 and the *'Illva Bhumi'* from Raigadh since 1969. Their circulation is mainly within the district. Besides, there are four Gujarati fortnightlies, *viz.*, the *'Apnun Sabarkantha'* from Prantij, the *'Sabar Sandesh'* from Raigadh, the *'Sabarkantha Samachar'* from Badoli and the *'Bajrang'* from Jadar. Their circulation is mainly within the district.

The well-known Gujarati dailies like the *'Sandesh'*, the *'Gujarat Samachar'*, the *'Jansatta'* and the *'Jay-Hind'* published from Ahmedabad are widely read in the district. Among the English dailies, the *'Times of India'* is popular among the English knowing people.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Origin, Growth and Direction—The innate urge of the people to organise voluntary social service institutions has found greater scope of expression after Independence as a result of popular awakening and State encouragement. Social service in the past was not organised in the Sabarkantha in the modern sense of the term. Perhaps the earliest effort in this direction was made in 1910 with the establishment of the 'Modasa Brotherhood' at Modasa. It first opened a reading room and then extended its activities by providing free text-books and scholarships to the deserving students, organising public lectures and establishing night schools, etc. It also published a periodical *'Suvanchhana'* the first of its type in Modasa under the editorship of Shri Mathurdas L. Gandhi, the pioneer of public welfare activities in Sabarkantha.

Another important institution of the past is the Modasa Pradesh Seva Sangh which has played a very important part in the social, cultural and educational development of the district. It was established in 1933. The Sangh under the inspiring leadership of Shri Mathuradas Gandhi organised multifarious activities by making propaganda for Khadi and Swadeshi

products, and establishing schools, libraries, dispensaries and *gaushalas* in the backward areas. It also helped in organising relief measures in times of distress. But its most important role was in establishing the Modasa Harijan Niwas—a housing colony for the Harijans. This was the first voluntary effort of its type during those days in the entire Bombay State.

The first Vyayamshala by voluntary efforts was established at Modasa[1] in 1929, though attempts at providing gymnastic training to the people were made as early as in 1898 with the opening of the Dickson Library and Gymnasium.

There is a growing consciousness and desire among the public spirited persons in all walks of life to promote moral and material well-being of the people especially the tribals who form a significant part of the population of the district and to raise them in the social and economic scale. The district now has a number of such voluntary institutions which are serving the people in a variety of ways. They complement and supplement Governmental efforts in many a field and also cover the field of ameliorative service which Government cannot render and which is the legitimate sphere of work of social organisations and workers. Government has recognised this basic fact and encouraged and utilised these agencies for the greater effectiveness of their own efforts. The following paragraphs describe some of the important voluntary social service organisations functioning in the district.

The Adivasi Seva Samiti, Shamalaji (Bhiloda Taluka)

The Adivasi Seva Samiti is one of the oldest existing voluntary social service institutions in the district. It was established in 1947 by the prominent social worker the late Shri Mathurdas Laljibhai Gandhi popularly known as Gandhi Dada. Even before 1948, he had established several schools and classes to educate the Adivasis to help them read and write. To organise these activities properly, he started the Adivasi Seva Samiti in 1947 under the presidentship of the late Shri Parikshitlal Majmudar. Since then, the institution works for the upliftment of the Adivasis and conducts a number of educational and other institutions at various places in the district. The work of the Sarvodaya Scheme sponsored by the Bombay Government was also entrusted to this institution. Under this scheme, 70 schools were started in the Adivasi areas of Bhiloda and Meghraj talukas. These schools provide education to about 11,000 children. They are given training in agricultural activities such as construction of wells, contour-bunding, use of improved seeds, etc. As a result of these activities, the Adivasis have become aware of the improved techniques of agriculture.

1. GANDHI BHOGILAL AND GANDHI RAMANLAL, *Purusharthoni Pratima*, (1959), p. 357

The institution conducts relief measures at the time of natural calamities. It helps them solve their social problems. It conducts adult education classes, a Khadi Gramodyog Mandal and arranges eye and dental camps. It runs a small agricultural farm, a *gaushala* and agricultural demonstration centres. Besides, it runs the following institutions.

(i) The Sarvodaya Vinay Mandir at Shamalaji with a strength of about 180 students. (ii) Five Kanya-Kumar Ashrams, *viz.*, (1) the Sanskar Kendra Kumar Chhatralaya at Shamalaji, (2) the Ekalavya Ashram Chhatralaya at Vijaynagar, (3) the Kasturba Kanya Chhatralaya at Raipur, (4) the Kamala Nehru Chhatralaya at Mota Kantharia and (5) the Mira Kanya Chhatralaya at Shamalpur, which together provide facilities to about 152 boys and girls. (iii) *Ashram Shalas, viz.*, (1) the Vinod Ashram at Varthali, (2) the Valmiki Ashram at Isari, and (3) Gnantirth Ashram Shala at Sisodara. These institutions have a total strength of about 350 students. (iv) *Balwadis* at Meghraj, Ramgadhi, Behdaj, Kasana, Rellawada, Vata-Kudol and Khiloda villages. There are in all 227 children taking benefit of these Balwadis.

The institution meets its expenditure from private donations and Government grants.

The Adivasi Seva-Sanshodhan Mandal, Dodisara (Bhiloda Taluka)

This institution was established in 1963 by enlightened and educated Adivasis who felt that the educational benefits received by them should also be made available to other Adivasis in the district. With this spirit, they devoted their energy to the cause of Adivasi welfare and established this institution at Dodisara in the year 1963. All the office-bearers of this institution are Adivasis and most of them are graduates from the Gujarat Vidyapith. They started their activities by establishing a school for Adivasis and named it as Adarsh Vanvasi Vidya Vihar. At that time, they had no building of their own to house the school and as such they started conducting the classes under a tree. Subsequently, they could build a house for the school with the co-operation of the local population. Lately, the 'Swiss Aid Abroad' has donated a land of 100 acres to this institution.

Besides the Vidya Vihar, the institution runs a Kumar Chhatralaya and a Kanya Chhatralaya. It publishes "*Adivasi Sandesh*" a quarterly devoted to the tribal welfare. The institution offers guidance to the Adivasis to solve their socio-economic problems.

Shri Bhankhor Seva Samaj, Bhankhor (Himatnagar Taluka)

Shri Bhankhor Seva Samaj was established in 1964 for the social and economic welfare of the people in the village. It runs a Balmandir, a school, a dispensary, a Samaj Mandir and a *dharmashala*.

The Jan Seva Sangh, Bhiloda

The Jan Seva Sangh was established in 1950 to promote economic, social and educational activities in the Bhiloda taluka. For this purpose, it conducts varied activities and runs a number of institutions including a secondary school which had 638 students in 1970. It conducts science exhibitions, a professional guidance bureau, etc. The Sangh also runs a Kumar Chhatralaya for the Backward Class students and supplies books and grants scholarships to the poor. The Jan Seva Sangh runs a public library and a reading room.

The Sabarkantha Jilla Rachanatmak Sangh, Badoli (Idar Taluka)

The institution was established in 1964 to propagate the principles of Sarvodaya. It runs Khadi centres at various places and organises *shibirs*. The Sangh runs one Khadi sales depot at Badoli and Shamalaji, training classes at Malpur, Shamalaji, Vijaynagar and Poshina; and production centres at Talod, Malpur, Shamalaji, Himatnagar, Badoli, Vadali, Poshina and Wankda.

The Seva Mandal Meghraj, Kasana (Meghraj Taluka)

The institution was established in 1955 by Shri Vallabhdas Punamchand Doshi, a social worker of the Sabarkantha with a view to promoting the general welfare of the people. For this purpose it runs a dispensary at Kasana which provides medical facilities to the people in the nearby villages. In 1967-68, 1,878 patients were treated at this dispensary. The Seva Mandal also organises Khadi and Gramodyog activities sponsored by the Gujarat State Khadi Gramodyog Board. Under these activities, it had installed 40 Ambar Charkhas in 1965-66 and provided employment to a number of persons. The institution runs a Khadi Bhandar at Kasana and Meghraj and one oil-ghani at Kasana. It also runs three Balwadis at Pahadiya, Adhodiya and Bhuval villages in Meghraj taluka.

Moreover, the institution conducts relief activities at the time of natural calamities such as famine, floods, etc. During the famine of 1967, it had opened 28 relief centres at various places in the taluka. Thus the Mandal is doing useful social service to the people, particularly the Adivasis.

The Seva Niketan, Khedbrahma

The Seva Niketan was established in 1965 by the efforts of Shri Dahyabhai G. Naik, a prominent social worker of Gujarat. It works for the upliftment of the Adivasis residing in the district. Prior to the establish-

ment of this institution, the Bhil Seva Mandal, Dohad (Panchmahals district) was working for the welfare of the Adivasis in this district. Subsequently, to meet the need of establishing a similar institution in this district, the Seva Niketan was started at Khedbrahma under the presidentship of Shri Dahyabhai Naik.

The institution runs (i) a Kumar Ashram at Khedbrahma, (ii) a Panchvati Kanya Ashram at Khedbrahma, (iii) Anand Ashram at Ambamahuda (Khedbrahma taluka), (iv) Astik Ashram at Atarsumba (Vijanagar mahal) and (v) Shrikant Ashram at Demti (Khedbrahma taluka). Besides, it conducts 10 Balwadis and 2 Udyog Kendras under the social welfare schemes. It also arranges *shibirs*, holiday camps, lectures, etc., to propagate the benefits of prohibition, removal of untouchability, etc., and conducts relief measures at the time of natural calamities. It provides free lodging and boarding facilities to about 400 students studying in the various Ashram schools and spends about Rs. 2 lakhs every year for the maintenance of these institutions.

The institution is registered under the Bombay State Public Trust Registration Act of 1950.

The Vishva Mangalam, Anera (Akodra) (Himatnagar Taluka)

One of the most important institutions in the district working for the educational and social uplift of the people is the Vishva Mangalam of Anera. It was established in 1960. The institution was first housed in a small *dharmashala* at village Akodra of Himatnagar taluka and was later shifted to Anera.

The institution conducts varied activities in the field of education and social welfare. It runs the following educational institutions.

(1) Stree Adhyapan Mandir (Training College for women), (2) Vinay Mandir (Agricultural High School), (3) Uttar Buniyadi Kanya Vidyalaya (Post-basic girls' schools), (4) two Kanya Chhatralayas and (5) a Balwadi.

The institution organises exhibitions and cultural programmes. As regards social welfare programmes, it runs 10 Balwadis, 7 Mahila Mandals and 2 Udyog Kendras for the welfare of children and women. The institution maintains one small *gaushala*.

The Vividh Bharati, Poshina (Khedbrahma Taluka)

The Vividh Bharati of Poshina is one of the important institutions in the district. It was established by Shri Maljibhai Sagrambhai Dabhi in

1962. The institution works for the cultural, social and economic uplift of the Adivasis and for this purpose conducts a number of educational and other activities.

It runs various institutions, *viz.*, (1) Shri Nav Nirman Vidyalaya at Poshina which imparts education upto Xth std., (2) Shri Sanskar Vidya Mandir at village Agiya which imparts education upto Xth std., (3) Shri Arvalli Chhatralaya, Poshina which accommodates 53 students, (4) Shri Sanskar Chhatralaya at village Agiya which accommodates 20 students, (5) Shri Chaitanya Balwadi, Poshina for Harijan children and (6) a Balwadi at village Gunbhakhari.

Moreover, the institution arranges fairs, *shibirs*, dance and drama programmes. For preserving the dancing art of the Adivasis, it runs the Girijan Nrutya Mandali which arranges dance programmes at different centres. The Poshina Gram Panchayat has donated 30 acres of land to the institution on which the agricultural and cattle welfare activities are carried out by the institution. It spends nearly Rs. 86,000 every year to maintain these institutions. This expenditure is met by donations received from the general public as well as Government grants. The Swiss Aid Abroad has donated Rs. 3,70,000 to the institution for the construction of schools, *chhatralayas*, waterworks, etc.

In addition to the voluntary social service organisations described above, there is a number of small organisations working in limited spheres of activities. These organisations number over 160 in the district and mainly comprise Yuvak Mandals and Mahila Mandals.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Abhapur—Vijaynagar Mahal (P. 420); G. P.

Abhapur is a small village situated among picturesque hilly surroundings on the river Harnav about 13 kms., away from Vijaynagar, the mahal headquarters. It is on the Idar-Vijaynagar State Transport bus route. The village is situated close to Rajasthan as the inter-State boundary between Gujarat and Rajasthan is only 3 kms., from here. It is believed that a prosperous town once flourished here. Ruins of ancient temples with beautiful architecture and sculpture have been discovered near the village. The temple of Sarneshwar Mahadev constructed in the year 1100 A. D., is situated on the outskirts of the village. It was devastated in the year 1240 A. D., by Alafkhan, the brother of Allaudin Khilji at the time of his invasion of Patan. Near this temple, a large *dharmashala* has been built in 1969-70 by the District Panchayat. The stone wall which formerly enclosed the temple is now completely dilapidated. The outer court of the temple or the *sabhamandap* is also totally destroyed. Except the plinth and some pillars nothing remains of the outer court. The inner chamber enshrines the Shivling. On the outside of the inner chamber, there are beautiful carvings and sculptures. A Sun temple said to have been constructed in the 15th century is also situated nearby. Close to this temple there is another one dedicated to Lord Shiv. Both the temples are protected monuments looked after by the Archaeological Department.

About 2 kms., to the north-west of Abhapur in the interior of the forest across the river Harnav, there are the old Lakhena Jain temples which are now in ruins. Of these, the main temple is a Digambar Jain temple believed to have been built in 1500 A. D. It is a very large structure of stone which has in many places turned completely black owing to exposure. The temple is not as rich in sculpture as that of Sarneshwar. However, it looks impressive because of its high plinth, spaciousness, screen panels and other carvings on the walls and tower. A little behind this temple, lie the ruins of another small temple.

Less than 2 kms., from the Sarneshwar temple there are two old *dargahs* of Pirs very much revered by the people. Near the roadside on the river bank are old *samadhis*. Close by, there is a temple of Satimata.

The village is mainly populated by Bhils.

ABBREVIATIONS : P = Population (1971), V. P. = Village Panchayat : G. P. = Group Panchayat ; N. P. = Nagar Panchayat ; Mu. = Municipality ; N = North Latitude : E = East Longitude.

Ambaliara—Bayad Taluka (P. 2,866); V. P.

Ambaliara is situated on the river Mazam, 18 kms., from Rakhial, railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. Ambaliara was formerly a small State in the Mahikantha Agency. The ruins of the old town are still found here. It has a temple of Nilkantheshwar Mahadev and an old Muslim tomb. There is a place nearby with ancient underground cells which according to popular belief were connected by an underground passage to the village Bahiyal (in Ahmedabad district) about 6 kms., from here. The village has a primary health centre and a post-office.

Androkha—Vijaynagar Mahal (P. 243): G. P.

Androkha is situated on the river Harnav 21 kms., from Vijaynagar on the Idar-Vijaynagar bus route. The village is known for the Astik Ashram, a residential school run by the Bhil Seva Mandal, Dohad, for the Adivasi students. Behind the Ashram there is the Panch Shiv temple with an attractive gate way. The temple is a protected monument in charge of the Archaeological Department. There is another Shiv temple, on the opposite bank of the river, which is also managed by the Archaeological Department.

Arsodiya—Idar Taluka (P. 1,411); V. P.

Arsodiya is situated on the bank of the river Sabarmati about 35 kms., from Idar, the taluka headquarters. China clay is excavated here and exported. On the bank of the river, there is a temple of Sapta Dhareshvar. The village is served by the State Transport bus services during fair season.

Atarsumba—Vijaynagar Mahal (P. 952): G. P.

The village is situated on the bank of the Harnav river, about 20 kms., away from Vijaynagar on the Idar-Vijaynagar road. On the opposite bank of the river, there are nine temples of Sadevant Savlinga, the principal characters of the famous love story in the local folk-lore. Close to the village, is an old temple of Goddess Ambaji which is now in ruins. People from the surrounding villages visit the temple during the Navratri festival.

Badoli—Idar Taluka (P. 3,398); G. P.

Badoli is situated on the river Guhavi about 10 kms., from Idar, the taluka headquarters. The village has a temple of '*Hepdi Mata*' where persons suffering from paralysis come for relief, a Shivalaya and a Swaminarayan temple. The temple of Narayaneshwar Mahadev is situated nearby at the confluence of the rivers Ghanav and Vekri. Badoli has two primary

schools, one secondary school, a Government dispensary, a post-office and the branches of the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank and the State Bank of India. It has an oil-mill also. Badoli is known for its handlooms.

Bayad—Bayad Taluka (P. 7,787); V. P., 23° 14′ N. 73° 15′ E.

Bayad, the taluka headquarters, is situated on the State Highway running from Kapadwanj to Modasa and is served regularly by the State Transport bus services. It is 31 kms., from the Kapadwanj railway station. A temple of Dhareshvar Mahadev is situated nearby on the river Vatrak. It has an oil-mill and a ginning factory. Being the taluka headquarters, all taluka offices are located here. Besides, there is a rest-house, water works, a *dharmashala*, two primary schools, one secondary school, a dispensary and a veterinary dispensary. It has the branches of the State Bank of India, the Bank of Baroda, the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank and the District Co-operative Bank.

Bhiloda—Bhiloda Taluka (P. 6,015); V. P., 23° 46′ N. 73° 15′ E.

Bhiloda is the taluka headquarters situated on the river Hathmati about 29 kms., from Idar. It is connected by the State Transport bus service with Himatnagar, Idar and other important centres of the district. It has derived its name from the Bhil, a backward tribe inhabiting the areas. About 24 kms., on the south-east, there is an ancient temple of Shri Chandraprabhuji, 70 feet long, 45 feet broad and 30 feet high. The *Kirti-Stambh* (Tower of Victory) though smaller in size and built a little later is similar in structure to the famous *Kirti-Stambh* of Maha Rana Kumbh at Chitor. The carving on the outside, contains the images of Hindu Gods, the Digpals (Lord of Quarters) etc., and a number of incidents from the daily life of the people. In the centre of the village there is an ancient temple of Laxminarayan. The Kalikamata temple is situated on the bank of the river Hathmati, outside the village. Among the Muslim places of worship, there is one mosque and Idgah About 5 kms., east of Bhiloda on the road leading to Shamalaji, there is a step-well built in Samvat 1599 (1543 A. D.) which is called the Retoda step-well.[1]

Being the taluka headquarters all the taluka level offices are located here. It has a primary school, a girls' school, a secondary school, a police station and the branches of the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank, the Gujarat State Co-operative Land and Development Bank and the Dena Bank.

The Cottage Hospital established is 1962 with an attached T. B. clinic serves the Adivasi areas in and around Bhiloda taluka.

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1. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), p. 21.

Bolundra—Modasa Taluka (P. 1,361) ; G. P.

Bolundra is about 16 kms., from Modasa, the taluka headquarters. It is served by the State transport bus services plying on the Modasa-Shamalaji road. It is well-known for the Shri Krishna Agni Hotri Ashram and the *Yagnashala* started by late Shri Krishnaram Vyas in 1918 and now conducted by his grand son Shri Shukdevbhai The village has a primary school, a secondary school and a post-office. Bolundra has its own water works, and is electrified. The Brahmins of Bolundra are well versed in the Shastras.

Davad—Idar Taluka (P. 2,291) ; V. P.

The village Davad is situated at a distance of 25 kms., from Idar, the taluka headquarters. The nearest railway station is Jadar about 10 kms., away from this village. It is connected by the State Transport bus service on the Idar-Arsodiya road. Davad was called Dravad in the 12th century. Tradition says that it went by the name of Dilip-pur-Pattan at still earlier periods. It seems to have been destroyed about the same period as Vallabhipur and was repopulated in the 9th century. Davad was in a prosperous condition during the time of King Siddhraj, but suffered upheavals thereafter.

One of the memorial pillars near the Ankol Mata step-well bears an inscription dated Samvat 1305 (1249 A. D.) wherein the place is mentioned as Davad. The name of Lun-Dhaval, chief lord of Gujarat is also mentioned in it.

The Hanslesar tank which is said to have been built by the King Siddhraj's queen Hansalde and has sand-stone steps on three sides reaching deep into the water, and Ankol Mata step-well which contains some sculptures in ornamental design are the only relics of the past.[1] The village has one primary school, one secondary school and two private dispensaries.

Saptanath Mahadev - The shrine of Saptanath Mahadev, situated on the bank of the river Sabarmati, about 6 kms., from Davad, is a place of pilgrimage, as the seven Puranic Rishis are said to have stayed here for sometime. Seven small *lingams*, fixed in a line in an underground chamber are shown as the original place where the Rishis offered their daily prayers. There is a *kund* opposite the shrine, in which the water from an underground stream flows after passing over the *lingam* and the pilgrims bathe in the *kund* before worshipping the Mahadev. Some old images are fixed on the outer side of the *kund*, and some are lying near the shrine. The relics of the past found here include the foundations of a Panchayatan temple

1. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), pp. 27-28.

further upwards and the Dhareshwar temple, which seems to belong to a period earlier than the 12th century.[1]

Delwada (Chhochhar)--Khedbrahma Taluka (P. 890); G. P.

Delwada, a small village mainly inhabited by the Adivasis, is about 48 kms., away from Khedbrahma, the taluka headquarters. It is near the border of Rajasthan. The area nearby is popularly known as Posina-Patta. The old temple of the Chitra-Vichitreshwar Mahadev is situated about 3 kms., from here on the confluence of the rivers Sabarmati and the Vakal. There is a well and a *dharmashala* nearby. The name of the temple is said to have been derived from the Puranic story of Chitra Virya and Vichitra Virya. Delwada is the chief marketing centre for the Adivasi people. A big Adivasi fair is held here for two days on the Phalgun Amavasya and the Gudi Padvo-Chaitra Sud 1. The Adivasis, young and old and from far and wide assemble here on these days and make merry.

Demai--Bayad Taluka (P 5,439); G. P.

Demai is the biggest village in the Bayad taluka. It is situated on the State Highway from Kapadwanj in Kaira district to Modasa at a distance of 8 kms., from Bayad, the taluka headquarters. The nearest railway station, Kapadwanj is at a distance of 22 kms. The village was known for the '*Agnikund*' and '*Yagnushala*' of Agnihotri Shri Chunilal Harishankar Sharma who shifted them to Raigadh, a village in Himatnagar taluka in 1964. It is a trading centre for surrounding villages and has one oil-mill, two ginning factories and a police station. The branches of the Central Bank of India and the District Co-operative Bank are located here. Demai has two primary schools, a secondary school, a post-office, a public dispensary and waterworks.

Derol—Himatnagar Taluka (P. 2,323); V. P.

Derol is situated on the bank of the river Sabarmati about 19 kms., from Himatnagar, the taluka and district headquarters. Derol was formerly known as 'Devpuri' wherefrom it took its present name. It is believed to have been given in charity to Brahmins by Siddhraj Jayasinha. Derol has its own post-office. At a short distance from here is a temple of 'Bilveshwar Mahadev' where a fair is held on Kartik Sud 15 (November).

Derol—Khedbrahma Taluka (P. 935); V. P.

Derol, situated on the bank of the Harnav river, is 10 kms., from Khedbrahma, the taluka headquarters. It is popularly known as Vaghela's Derol as it was formerly ruled by the Vaghela kings. Besides an ancient

1. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), pp. 20-30.

Shiv temple, there are Jain temples believed to have been built in the 12th century. The village has a primary health centre.

Desan—Bhiloda Taluka (P. 8); G. P.

Desan is a village about 8 kms., from Bhiloda, the taluka headquarters and 24 kms., from the Idar railway station. It is famous for the Bhavnath temple, nearly 500 years old, built of white sand-stone and brick. The temple is known as the Ashram of Bhrugu Rishi. This temple, repaired by Raoji Jagatsinghji of Malpur in Samvat 1706 (1650 A. D.), was rebuilt by Japi Maganlal Devshanker of Badoli in Samvat 1983 (1927 A. D.). The temple appears to have been rebuilt many times in the past as the existence of the temple and the *kund* is mentioned in the inscription of Samvat 1354 (1298 A. D.) in the Sun (now Ramji) temple in the compound. According to the above inscription it was built during the time of King Karan of Gujarat to commemorate the death of a hero killed in the struggle to save cows.

A small shrine near the temple is shown as the place where Chyavan Rishi performed his penance.[1] Close to the temple, is one ancient *Kund* known as Bhrugu Kund. The earth and water of this *Kund* have so great a name for having medical properties of curing leucoderma that many people suffering from that disease come here for treatment from all parts of Gujarat. On an average 40 to 50 patients come here every day. The Hathmati irrigation project is at a close distance from the village. The dam constructed at a total cost of Rs. 5·44 crores is estimated to irrigate 92,900 acres of land in surrounding areas. A fair is held in the village on the last Monday of Shravan and on the Shivratri festival.

Devni Mori—Bhiloda Taluka (P. 466); V. P., 23° 39′ N. 73° 23′ E.

Devni Mori[2] was a village at a distance of less than 2 kms., from Shamalaji and 20 kms., from Bhiloda, the taluka headquarters. It was picturesquely situated in a valley and was surrounded on three sides by low hills. The valley had a number of mounds having archaeological remains on the left bank of the river Meshwo. Of these, a mound known as 'Bhoj-Rajano Tekro' was the most prominent. But after construction of the irrigation dam on the river Meshwo in 1964, the site is sub-merged under water. Before the construction of the dam, fortunately the M. S. University of Baroda made an excavation study of this and other mounds between 1960 and 1963. The excavations carried out here during this period lend further evidence of the past glory of this ancient place. They proved that the Bhoj-Rajano Tekro was a *Stupa* and the adjoining field

1. Inamdar P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), p. 20.

2. The English equivalent of it is "in front of God."

was a *Vihara* of the Buddhist saints.[1] Devni Mori was traditionally referred to as a great city in the past during the reign of Kshatrap Kings in Gujarat. The evidence of its former greatness is furnished by the find of an idol of 'Parasnath' which is lately removed to the Jain temple at Tintoi, 12 kms., away and still known as Morino Parasnath. The remains of a *Stupa* and a *Vihara* have been unearthed. The *Stupa* is 85' both in height and in circumference. The *Vihara* with 36 rooms for the residence of Buddhist saints stands by the side of the *Stupa*. A retaining wall seems to have been once constructed to protect these structures against the floods of the river Meshwo. During excavations, two caskets were found from the *Stupa* one of which bears an inscription in Sanskrit indicating that the *Stupa* was built in 205 A. D., under the auspices of Mahavihar. Designed and constructed by the Buddhist monks, Agnivarma and Sudarshan and built by king Rudrasen, the *Stupa* was one of the finest models of architecture prevailing during the Kshatrap period. It is believed to resemble similar structures obtaining in Mirupurkhas (Sind) and Mohara Mordu (Taxshila). The most significant feature of the *Stupa* is the excellent carving in terracotta and the high degree of technological skill evinced in the manufacture of large-sized idols in meditative postures. The sculpture on these idols reflect the influence of the Gandhar art of which the Kshatrapa kings were votaries. Found in the inscribed caskets were small bottles, some ancient silver coins, gold leaves, materials of worship (like barley, etc.), and some bodily remnants of Lord Buddha The inscriptions[2] are engraved in the Brahmi script that was known in the Western India from the fourth century onwards.[3] The coins discovered from the site point out that a majority of them belong to the Kshatrapa period. None of the antiquities are stylistically later than the seventh or the eighth century A. D. This fact suggests that this flourishing settlement was coming to an end in about 7th or 8th century A. D.[4] The remnants of old ponds and lakes constructed for irrigation and other essential purposes throw light on the engineering skill of the ancient times. During the excavations 372 iron objects were discovered. They belong to a period from about the 3rd century A. D., to about the 7th century A. D., and later[5] Other findings include pottery, plain and painted, stone objects, decorative motifs, etc. Dr. Mehta and Dr. Chowdhary who led the team for the excavations and explorations at Devni Mori believe that "this valley was occupied from the pre-historic period and the occupation continued with the occasional breaks upto the present."[6]

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1. MEHTA R. N. (DR.) AND CHOWDHARY S. N. (DR.), *Excavation at Devni mori*, (1966), p. 9.
2. The text of the inscriptions is given in Annexure.
3. *Op. cit.*, p. 120.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 30.
5. *Ibid.*, p.96.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 176.

As this site was to be submerged by the water after the construction of the Meshwo dam at Shamalaji, the finds and architectural remains of Devni Mori were removed and have been preserved by the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History of the M. S. University, Baroda.

The site of Devni Mori is now submerged by the water of the Meshwo dam.

ANNEXURE

The Historical Inscription from Devni Mori

The Casket II, obtained in 1963 from the great *Stupa* at Devni Mori, bears two inscriptions. One of them, incised on all sides of the lid, forms a part of some Buddhist Text pertaining to the Pratitya-Samutpada doctrine and is of purely religious character, while the other inscription, incised on the main body of the casket, is of historical importance, as it gives the account of the construction of the *Stupa* and the relic-casket enshrined in it.

The first three lines of the historical inscription are incised on the vertical perimeter and the succeeding two lines on the base. The inscription is in Sanskrit.

Text

(Line 1) नमस्सर्वज्ञाय ॥
ज्ञानानुकम्पाकारुण्य प्रभावनिधये नम: [।*]
सम्यकसंबुद्धसूर्य्याय परवादितमो नुदे ॥ [१*]
समा (मा) विंशत्यधिके कथिकनृपाणां समागते [ऽ*] ब्दशते [।*]

(Line 2) भ (भा) द्रपदपंचमदिने नृपतौ श्रीरुद्रसेने च [॥२*]
कृतमवनिकेतुभूतम्महा विहाराश्रये महास्तूप (पम्) [।*]
सत्वा (त्वा) नेकानुग्रह निरताभ्यां शाक्यभिक्षुभ्यां (भ्याम्) [॥३*]

(Line 3) साग्निवर्म्मनाम्ना सुदर्शनेन च विमुक्तरथ्रेण [।*]
कार्म्मान्तिकौ च पाशान्तिकपाशौ शाक्यभिक्षुकावत्र [॥४*]
दशबल शरीर निलयश्शुभ शैलमयस्स्वयं वराहेण [।*]

(·Line 4) कुट्टिमक (कृ) ता कृतो [ऽ*] यं समुद्गकस्सेनपुत्रेण ॥ [।५*]
मह (हा) सेनभिक्षुस्य च कारयिता विश्रुत: समुद्गस्य [।*]

(Line 5) सुगतप्रसादकामो बुध्यमर्थन्धर्म्म सङ्घाभ्या (भ्याम्) ॥[६]

Translation

Salutation to the Omniscient (Buddha).

(Verse 1) Salutation to the well-enlightened Sun impelling the darkness in the form of the expounders of other doctrines and the abode of knowledge. sympathy, compassion and magnanimity.

(Verse 2) On the fifth day of Bhadrapada at the advent of the year one hundred and twenty-seven of the Kathika kings, when illustrious Rudrasena was the king.

(Verse 3) The Great Stupa, which has been ornament of the earth, was erected, at the site of the Great Vihara (Monastery), by the two Buddhist Bhikshus (mendicants), who were devoted to many favours on animate beings,

(Verse 4) (namely) the monk named Agnivarman and Sudars'ana, whose defects are abandoned.

Here the Buddhist Bhikshus Pasantika and Padda were the superintendents.[1]

(Verse 5) This auspicious casket of stone, containing the body (relic) of Dasabala (Buddha) was made by Varaha himself, son of Sena, who prepared the pavement.

(Verse 6) Renowned Bhikshu Mahasena, desirous of the grace of Sugata (Buddha), got the casket made for the growth of the Dharma (Religion) and the Sangha (Congregation).

Dhansura—Modasa Taluka (P. 8,788); V. P., 23° 21′ N. 73° 13′ E.

Dhansura is the biggest village in the Modasa taluka. It is 16 kms., from Modasa on the State Highway coming from Kapadwanj and is connected with Modasa by the State Transport bus services. It is an important trading centre with a market yard. two oil-mills and five ginning and pressing factories. It is provided with electricity and piped water supply.

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1. The excavators read कार्म्मान्तिके च पाशान्तिकपल्लौ in verse 4 and took it to mean 'at Pasantika-palli near Karma.' They locate Pasantika-palli on the Devni Mori site and identify Karma with Samalaji. Later on the first word is definitely read as कार्म्मान्तिकौ construed with भिक्षुकौ and taken to mean superintendents or supervisors. But the reading पाशान्तिकपद्दौ is quite probable. In that case it would denote the ancient name of Devni Mori and the same two Buddhist monks would themselves be the superintendents of the construction.

It has a seed multiplication farm, two primary schools, two secondary schools, a sub-centre of the primary health centre, an Ayurvedic dispensary, a veterinary dispensary, a post and telegraph office, telephone exchange and the sub-station of the Gujarat Electricity Board. The branches of the Baroda Bank, the Nagarik Bank and the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank are established here. The village has four temples and a mosque.

There is a Panchayat *ghar*. There are hostels for students of Khadayata Banias, Kutchi Patels and Chaudhari Patels. There is a separate hostel for girls.

Fatehpur—Bhiloda Taluka (P. 458); G. P.

Fatehpur is 35 kms., away from Himatnagar, a railway station on Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. It is about 24 kms., from Bhiloda the taluka headquarters and is connceted with it by the State Transport bus services. Earthen dams across the river Indrasi and Hathmati and the waste-weir near Navalpur have been completed. The entire project including dams, canals, branches and distributories is expected to cost about Rs. 5 crores. It will bring an area of 45,100 acres of land under irrigation.

Gabat—Bayad Taluka (P. 5,443); V. P.

Gabat is a fairly big village about 16 kms., from Bayad, the taluka headquarters with which it is connected by the State Transport bus services. The nearest railway station is Kapadwanj (Kaira district), at a distance of about 48 kms. It was formerly a petty State with revenue jurisdiction over six villages. Gabat has the branches of the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank and the Union Bank of India, besides a post office, two primary schools and one secondary school.

Gadhada—Khedbrahma Taluka (P. 711); G. P.

Gadhada is 16 kms., from Khedbrahma, the taluka headquarters. The State Transport facilities are available only during fair season. The village is known as Gadhada-Shamalaji because of the Shamalaji temple situated here. The temple is on a high hill with a large tank nearby. Within the temple, there is a magnificent idol of Lord Shamalaji, made of black marble. The idol is surrounded by 10 small idols indicating the 10 incarnations (*Dashawatar*) of Lord Vishnu. The temple is believed to be about 500 years old. Near the temple, there is a *dharmashala* for pilgrims. The river Sabarmati flows about 3 kms., from here. The lands of this village will be under submergence, when the Dharoi irrigation dam will be constructed.

A fair is held here in the month of Shravan (August).

Ghadi—Prantij Taluka (P. 2,797); V. P.

Ghadi is situated on the bank of the river Khari, 13 kms., from Prantij, the taluka headquarters. It is connected with Prantij and Talod by the State Transport bus service. At a distance of about one km., is a temple of Kalika Mata. A big fair is held here on Ashvin Sud 7-8.

Galesra—Prantij Taluka (P. 530); G. P.

Galesra is picturesquely situated on the bank of the Sabarmati river, on a 125 feet high hill at a distance of 4 kms., from Prantij, the taluka headquarters, on the Ahmedabad-Delhi National Highway No. 8. It has a temple of Galteshwar Mahadev wherein, the *Shivling*, instead of being round is square shaped. There are a number of cracks in the *ling* and water trickles from one of them. It is, therefore, called Galteshwar. It is believed to be an ancient place, as it has been referred to in the *Padma Puran*. It is a popular picnic place. For providing facilities to visitors, several rooms are recently constructed here. Two fairs are held here, one on the Janmashtami and the other on the Sharad Purnima day—Asvin Sud 15.

Hapa—Himatnagar Taluka (P. 1,130); G. P.

Hapa is 5 kms., from Hapa Road railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. Originally it was the seat of a Thakor of Makwana Koli clan ranking in sixth class and paying tribute to the Idar State. Being a place of historical importance, there are many objects of interest which include a number of ancient monuments in dilapidated conditions near a place called Gadhval The village is situated on the bank of the river Hathmati. A water-fall named 'Hastapat' falls from a hight of nearly six metres in the river. Close to it, there is Sur Sagar lake and a temple of Shri Rama.

Hathrol—Himatnagar Taluka (P. 1,477); G. P.

Hathrol is about 24 kms., south-east of Himatnagar. A Shiv temple with a *Chaumukha* (four-faced) *Shivling* has been recently discovered near here.[1] The temple is the first of its type to be discovered in Gujarat. It is believed to have been built about 700 years ago. A stone inscription near the temple bears the date 1361 (Vikram Samvat). The ruins of other two temples are also found here. The village has a school, a primary health centre and a post-office.

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1. Dr. Harilal Gaudani, *An article in the Gujarat Samachar*, dated 26th June, 1971.

Himatnagar—Himatnagar Taluka (P. 23,764) ; N. P., 23° 36′ N. 72° 58′ E.

Himatnagar, the district headquarters, is situated on the left bank of the river Hathmati, on the road leading from Ahmedabad to Khedbrahma. The Himatnagar-Udaipur railway line connects the town with Rajasthan. It is the State Transport bus centre from which buses go to Ahmedabad, Khedbrahma, Ambaji, Modasa, Bhiloda, Ratanpur (Rajasthan side), Mehsana, Godhra, etc.

It was founded by Sultan Ahmad I (1411 A. D.—1443 A. D.) in about 1426 A. D., and was named Ahmednagar. The Sultan is said to have been so fond of the place that he thought of making it, instead of Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat. The old and historic name of the town was changed from Ahmednagar to Himatnagar after the name of Maharaja Shri Himatsinhji, in the year 1912.

The town was formerly surrounded by a stone-wall built about 1426 A. D., by Sultan Ahmedshah to keep the Rao of Idar in check. Of the town gates which have now disappeared, perhaps the most picturesquely situated was the Idar gate on the bank of the river Hathmati. The fort built by Ahmedshah on the river banks still remains, but all the old structures within its enclosure have disappeared and their place, has been taken by the extensive palaces and other buildings constructed during the princely regime. Ahmednagar served as an outpost of the Sultans of Ahmedabad. The fortifications show that the builders trusted that artillery would never be brought against the fort. The bastions are hollow, the inside occupied by pillared rooms in two stories which take up so much space that the walls of the bastions are composed of single layers of stone. Ahmedshah had built a palace on the hillock, which was demolished and the present palace was built by Pratapsinh between 1906 and 1916. The town wall was demolished and its stones were used in building the palace. The remnants of the wall are still seen on the river bank between the two bridges.

Inside the town, there are five interesting Jain temples, two Digamber's and three Shwetamber's. The temples of Bholeshwar Mahadev and Zaraneshwar Mahadev, the Maha Mandir near old Darbargadh and the Swaminarayan temple are important places of worship. There are three step-wells in the town, the oldest one is known as the *Kazi's Vavdi*, situated between the railway bridge and the road bridge with inscriptions on the side walls, one in Arabic and the other in Devnagri, bearing respectively the dates 1417 A. D., (820 H.) and 1522 A. D., (V. S. 1578). The second inscription shows that the well was built in 1522 A. D., by Shamsher-ul-Mulk, who is stated by tradition to have been a son of Sultan Ahmad. Further on, the citadel or inner fort contains some very fine though ruinous buildings. The windows of these buildings are very fine, of stone carved with the delicacy

of lace. There are several wells hewn out of the solid rock. In 1858 A. D., the principal building in the fort was occupied as a mess-house by a small force sent to keep order in the Mahikantha during the troubled times of the Mutiny. It is now in ruins. Outside, at some distance from the palace and opening directly on the Hathmati, was the well-known Idar gate. Close to it is a small mosque with artistic windows ornamented with a carved stone canopy. This mosque is said to have been built by Nasar-ul-Mulk, the eldest son of Sultan Ahmad. East of this mosque is the *Nav Lakha Kund*, one of the most interesting objects in the town. On the south of the *kund* is a building with a stone canopy intended for the king who during the heat of the day came with his ladies to enjoy this cool retreat. The cloister on the north has disappeared, but the others, in fair preservation are fine specimens of architecture. Tradition ascribes the work to Taj-ul-Mulk, one of the sons of Sultan Ahmad.

In distant past, Himatnagar was well-known for its stone, swords, matchlocks and knives. When the weir across the Hathmati river was being built during the last century, the road from the town to the river was found so heavy and sandy that stone-laden carts could scarcely pass. To meet this difficulty, a tramway of flat stone slabs was sunk in two parallel lines for the cart wheel to run on.[1]

The canal from the Hathmati irrigation project flows to the east of the town.

The town has an industrial estate situated on the highway leading to Ahmedabad. The proposed Sabar Milk Dairy which is under construction is also situated here. It has one pulse mill, one spinning mill run on co-operative basis, two cotton ginning presses, four oil mills, three soap factories and a pottery work. It has branches of the Bank of India, the Punjab National Bank, the Central Bank of India, the Dena Bank, the Union Bank, the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank, the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank and the Nagrik Co-operative Bank. As regards educational institutions, there are six primary schools, seven secondary schools and one Arts and Commerce College. The town has about 11 temples including 4 Jain temples and 5 mosques. Being the district headquarters, all the district level offices are located in Himatnagar. There is a Civil Hospital established in 1928.

Idar—Idar Taluka (P. 14,633) ; N. P. 23° 51′ N. 73° 00′ E.

Idar is the taluka headquarters situated 24 kms., north of Himatnagar, the district headquarters, on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. It is on the State Highway joining Himatnagar to Mota

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 432.

Ambaji in the Banaskantha district. The State Transport buses connect Idar with Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Himatnagar and other important centres. The town is picturesquely situated on the foot of Idar-gadh, a rocky hill about 800 feet high. It is a spur of the Arvalli Hills.

Idar was the capital of the former Idar State and was traditionally known as 'Ilvadurg'. It was mentioned in the '*Padma Puran*' as well as in the '*Maha Bharat* as Ila. Idar is made immortal in a well-known Gujarati proverb ; " ઈડરિયો ગઢ જીત્યા રે " which is said when something very difficult is achieved. Traditionally, Idar has been a well-known place from the earliest times. Even in the past cycle, *yug*, it was known and in the present cycle, before the days of Vikram, Veni Vachh Raj is said to have ruled over Idar.

" The first clear tradition shows that Idar was in the possession of Bhils. After the fall of Valabhi, the wife of King Shiladitya took refuge in a cave in the mountains and there gave birth to a son called 'Goha' or cave-born. Making over the child to a Brahman woman, the queen followed her lord through the fire. The young prince, of a daring character and adventurous spirit, soon passed out of his guardian's hands and joined the Idar Bhils who chose him as their King. For several generations, his successors ruled over Idar. The eighth prince Nagaditya was killed by his subjects. He left a son named Bappa Rawal, who never succeeded to his father's chiefship, but became the founder of a greater kingdom, the present Meywar. "[1] Bappa Rawal was born somewhere near Idar.

The well-known Chinese pilgrim Hieu-en-Tsiang (640 A. D.) mentions a place which he called O-cha-li, the Chinese way of writing Vadali. This place General Cunningham is inclined to identify with Idar.[2] He further notes that in the eleventh century Vadali was the capital of a family of chiefs claiming descent from Raja Bara Gupta, whom the General believes to be the same as the above mentioned Bappa Rawal. According to tradition.[3] Idar was refounded by Parihar Rajputs, who ruled there for several generations. Towards the close of the twelfth century, the Idar chief fought with Prithviraj, king of Delhi, against the Muslim invaders of India, and was killed at Thanesar (1193 A. D.). Idar then fell into the hands of a Koli named Hathi Sodh who was succeeded by his son Shamalio. The latter was killed by Rathod princes named Sonakji, and Siaji who took

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880). p. 434.

2. A considerable and very ancient town called Vadali, twelve miles to the north of Idar, may perhaps be the Vadari referred to. General Cunningham would make Vadari the district of the Jujube tree also called from another name of the same tree Sauvira, in his opinion, the Ophir or Sophir of the Bible. *Ancient Geography*, I, p. 479.

3 *OP. Cit.* p. 434

possession of Idar, and became the founder of the dynasty of the Raos, who ruled there for several generations. After numerous changes of fortune and many struggles with the Muslims, the Raos had at last to leave Idar, and were in 1728, succeeded by the Rathod dynasty from Marwar.

The town is picturesquely situated being surrounded by small hills. Approaching the town from the south, the road crosses a plain which was formerly covered with forest. Beyond the plain, small rocky hillocks, cover the town in such a way that upto the very gates, nothing of its handsome fort-wall is seen. About 1½ km., from the town, there is the Ranmaleshwar lake said to have been built by Rao Ranmal. Further on, to the left, are enormous granite boulders some crowned with small temples and others with the remains of fortifications. The town is surrounded by a brick wall which is in ruins. The stone gateway to the town is marked with many red hands of *satees*. Inside the wall there is a road, running criss-cross the town which leads to the *Ghantino Darvajo* a rock-cut passage giving access to the main route to Rajasthan. After crossing the Ghanti, there is an ancient step-well which is a protected monument. Nearby is a *kund*.

Except one or two old stone wells and some carved windows, the town has little of interest. One of the chief buildings is a fine Swaminarayan temple built by Maharaja Jawansinhji during the last century. Another temple belonging to the Vallabhacharya sect, was also built during the last century. At the end of the town and immediately under the hill is the palace, a large building with no architectural pretensions. At the foot of the fort is a ruined rock cave temple of Khokhanath Mahadev, thirty feet long by twenty feet broad, believed to be nearly 500 years old. Behind the palace, on the south-western face of the ranges of hills, which joins the spurs of the Aravalli hills, rises Idargadh, so steep, rocky, and well fortified, that according to the local saying, to conquer Idargadh is to achieve the impossible. From the palace a flight of steps leads to the fortress plateau, a table land raised well above the plain surrounded by heights, and with the gaps in the crest filled in and strengthened by ramparts. From below, two buildings, on opposite peaks, attract attention. That to the left, low and flat-roofed, is known as Ranmal's Choki[1] or guardroom. It is now in ruins. The other building, on an enormous granite peak to the right, domed and of fine stone, is known as *Ruthi Ranino Mahel* or the Angry Queen's Palace. It measures twenty-five feet long by nineteen feet broad and twelve feet high. The story is that when Rao Narayanji or Narandas (1573) driven from Idar by Akbar, took refuge in Polo, in spite of a terrible ulcer on his back, he continued to harass the Muslims. One day, when his back was being dressed, his queen came into the room, and

1. This building originally was a Jain temple, which was subsequently deserted and used as Choki.

seeing the fearful sore, mournfully shook her head. Noticing this in a mirror, the Rao asked why she shook her head. She said ; " from what I see I have no hope that you will regain your lost throne. " The king got so annoyed that he left the house, and, afterwards, when he retook Idar, he refused to see the queen's face. Disgusted at this treatment, and unwilling to live in her hubsand's palace, the queen is said to have built her palace on the highest peak of hill where she passed the rest of her life. Some centuries after, this palace was the scene of a cruel assassination. Surajmal, Thakor of Chandni, who had saved Idar from the Marathas, was so puffed up by his success that he insulted Bhavansing, the son and heir-apparent of the old Maharaja Shivsing. Bent on revenge, the prince invited Surajmal to a feast, and under pretence of inspecting the fort, took him up to the Angry Queen's Palace and there killed him.[1]

The way into the fort is by a stone paved pathway. The pathway leads to a part of the hill between the two peaks. Following the path, on the right hand is a small garden. Further on, is a well-preserved Shwetambar Jain temple, dedicated to Shri Shantinath, the sixteenth *Tirthankar*. This temple, measuring 160 feet by 125 feet and 55 feet high, is evidently of considerable age. Near the temple is a deep reservoir always filled with water. At some distance, and higher up the western side of the hill, is another temple, belonging to the Digambar Jains and dedicated to Shri Shambhavnath, the third *Tirthankar*. This seems of even larger than the other, but it bears no date. Within the limits of the fort, there is a natural cave 28 feet by 18 feet and 7 feet high containing an image of Vajar Mata. While going up the fort one has to pass by the side of Dolat Castle, a seven storeyed building built by Maharaja Dolatsinhji between 1922 and 1928.

The interior of the hill-fort is very striking from the dense brushwood by which the ruins are more or less screened. Perhaps the finest view is near the Shambhavnath's temple, from where looking towards the Angry Queen's Palace the sheer scarp of the great granite peak, towering above the trees, stands clear against the sky.

On a rising ground, south of the town and close to the wall there is the cave temple of Chandangupha Mahadev, a natural rock cavern 20 feet long by 10 feet broad and from 5 to 7 feet high. About one kilometre south east of the town, on a rising ground, is the cave of Mahakaleshwar Mahadev, 20 feet long by 12 feet broad and from 5 to 10 feet high visited by many devotees. The hill looks like an enormous *ling*.

Among the places of interest in Idar, an important one is the Rajchandra Vihar built a few years ago on a hill, at a distance of about

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 436.

3 kilometres from the town. Shrimad Rajchandra (Raichandbhai), whom Mahatma Gandhiji had accepted as his Guru, had performed penance (*tap*) here in the Samvat year 1955 (1899 A. D.). The Vihar having a portrait of Shrimad Rajchandra is open to all devotees without any distinction of caste or creed.

The beautiful temple of Swaminarayan in the town is a centre of attraction for visitors and devotees. The Rani Talav outside the town and on the way to Vadali is also worth seeing. The wooden toy industry is a well-known handicraft of Idar. Its tanning industry is also a flourishing one. Idar is a marketing centre for the surrounding villages growing cotton and groundnut. There are four cotton-ginning factories. Besides one Agricultural school established during the Second Five Year Plan, the town has taluka offices, a mobile dispensary for rural areas and a hospital for the Backward Classes. A referral hospital is under construction. The town has its own Municipality, now known as Nagar Panchayat.

As regards educational institutions, Idar has three secondary schools (including one for girls'), one Arts and Commerce College and one Primary Teacher's Training College for women. It has branches of the State Bank of India, the Central Bank, the Dena Bank, the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank, the Gujarat State Land Development Bank and the Idar Nagarik Sahakari Bank. As regards objects of religious interest, there are several temples of Shiv besides a Swaminarayan temple, a Maha Mandir and a temple of Laxminarayan, eight Jain temples and four mosques.

Ilol—Himatnagar Taluka (P. 5,388): V. P.

Ilol is the biggest village in Himatnagar taluka. It is 12 kms., from Himatnagar, the headquarters of the taluka and the district. Formerly, it was the seat of Ilol state ranking in fourth class and paying tribute to the Idar State. There are some stone-quarries nearby. An ancient step-well and a Jain temple are specimens of ancient architecture in the village. Ilol has a co-operative ginning factory, a secondary school, a public dispensary and a post office.

Jadar--Idar Taluka (P. 3,587): V. P.

Jadar is a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway and about 12 kms, from the taluka headquarters. It is situated on the river Debhol. It is connected by the State Transport bus services with Khedbrahma and other important centres of the district. There is a temple dedicated to Mudhaneshwar Mahadev traditionally resorted to for the cure of serpent bites. The village has an oil-mill, two ginning and pressing factories, a secondary school and a post and telegraph office. It has a public hospital known as Shri Haribhai Kevalbhai Patel

Sarvajanik Hospital. The Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank and the Dena Bank have set up their branches here.

A fair is held every year on the second Monday of Bhadrapad.

Kadoli—Himatnagar Taluka (P. 1,917); V. P.

Kadoli is situated on the river Sabarmati about 20 kms., from Himatnagar, the headquarters of the taluka and district. The State Transport buses ply between Himatnagar and Kadoli during fair season. It was the seat of the former chief of Kadoli State ranking in sixth class and paying tribute to the Idar State. About 2 kms., from here, there is a temple of Saptanath Mahadev which is said to be the site of the Ashram of Saptarishi, *i. e.*, seven Rishis in ancient times. A fair is held every year on the Phalgun Sud 11. On the river bank, there are many stone quarries from which chalk (*khadi*) is available in plenty. Kadoli has a secondary school and a post office.

Khedbrahma---Khedbrahma Taluka (P. 8,858); V. P., 24° 02′ N. 73° 03′ E.

Khedbrahma is the taluka headquarters situated on the right bank of the Harnav river about 25 kms., north of Idar. It is the terminus station on the metre gauge railway line running between Ahmedabad and Khedbrahma. It is 55 kms., away from Himatnagar on the State Highway to Mota Ambaji. The place is called Khedbrahma or Brahmani Khed, as Brahma is said to have first ploughed some land here. The shrine of Brahma, one of the very few that exists in India and indeed the only one in Gujarat is situated here. It is a place of pilgrimage for the Hindus on the confluence of three rivers, *viz*., the Harnav. the Kosambi and the Bhimakshi near the temples of Koteshwar and Pankheshwar or Pakshendranath Mahadev.

According to the *Brahma Puran*, this place owes its sanctity to a desire of Brahma to free himself from impurity. Lord Vishnu, whom he consulted as to the means, advised him to perform a sacrifice at some holy spot in Bharatkhand in the Jambudwipa, and get learned Brahmins to officiate for him. Under Brahma's orders, Vishvakarma built a handsome city on the right bank of the Sabarmati south of Mount Abu, 9 kms., (4 *kos*) round. It has golden ramparts and twenty-four gates and through it flowed the river Hiranyakshi, the modern Harnav. He then created 9,000 Brahmins to officiate at the sacrifice. And when the sacrifice was over, and the impurity removed, to maintain his Brahmins, he created 18,000 Vaishyas. Before withdrawing from the world, he let the Brahmins dedicate a shrine to him, and place in his four faced image.1

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 437.

According to one opinion, the temple was built in the 12th century, while according to the other, it must have been built during the 17th century. An inscription from the famous Aditi Vav (step-well) nearby, bears testimony to the fact that in the 13th century, the place was in a prosperous condition. Large-sized bricks found from the ruins bear a finger mark which indicate that they were made during the Gupta period. The Gadhaiya coins of the 4th century belonging to the Gupta period were also found in this place.[1] These facts go to establish the antiquity of this ancient place.

The Brahma temple and the step-well, opposite the Bhragu Ashram and the temple of Kshirajamba Mata nearby, the Pankheshwar temple, the Amba Mata temple, the Hatkeshwar temple and a few Jain temples are the relics of the past. The style of the Brahmaji temple is believed to be of the 12th century.[2] The temple has a big idol of Brahma about 6½ feet high. Such an idol is scarcely to be found anywhere else in India.[3] In former times, Khedbrahma is said to have attracted millions of pilgrims and merchants from Marwar, Malva, Sirohi, Gujarat, Kutch and Saurashtra. The Saurashtra traders used to put up booths on the south bank of the river Harnav and deal in opium, cloth, copperware, jewellery, grocery and horses. The gathering lasted for fifteen days. Goods worth a lakh of rupees were sold. Near the temple, there is an old step-well known as Brahmaji's Vav believed to have been built in the 14th century.

The famous Ashram of Bhrigu Rishi[4] the son of Brahma is situated at a little distance from here while the temples of Laxmiji and the Koteshwar Mahadev are about 2 kms., away. Khedbrahma is famous for its temple of Amba Mataji popularly known as Nana Ambaji, to distinguish it from the shrine of Arasur Ambaji in the Banaskantha district.

The former Gazetteer described Khedbrahma as the town of considerable size and renowed for sanctity.[5]

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1. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), pp. 12-13.
2. *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 64.
4. According to the Brahma Puran, Bhrigu Rishi was once deputed by Rishis to find out who was the noblest among the three Lords, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. Bhrigu found that Brahma and Mahesh were easily enraged. He then approached Vishnu and to provoke him placed his foot on Lord Vishnu's chest. Instead of getting enraged, Vishnu Bhagwan tendered apology to the Rishi saying that his hard chest might have hurt the Rishi's foot. Bhrigu Rishi thus proved that Lord Vishnu was the noblest among the three Lords. However, to atone for the sin of insulting the gods, Bhrigu Rishi came to the Brahma Kshetra, bathed in the river Hiranyakshi (Harnav) and worshipped Lord Shiv with a devotion and penance. Thereupon, Lord shiv absolved him from his sin.
5. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 437.

The town has many *dharmashalas* run by Mataji Temple Trust. A dam has been recently constructed here on the Harnav river, which provides irrigation facilities to the nearby areas.

Khedbrahma has a co-operative ginning factory, a cement pipe factory, three sawing factories, and a taluka sale-purchase union. The village has three primary schools, three high schools, an agricultural school, a veterinary dispensary and a Government dispensary. There are branches of the State Bank of India, the District Central Co-operative Bank, the Nagarik Co-operative Bank, and the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank. There is an Ashramshala for the children of the Scheduled Tribes run by the Bhil Seva Mandal, Dohad. There is also the Pravasi Ashram, for the children of the nomadic tribes.

Fairs are held here every year on the *purnima* of Kartik, Chaitra and Bhadrapada.

Khokhra—Vijaynagar Mahal (P. 227) ; G. P.

Khokhra is about 15 kms., from Vijaynagar with which it is connected by a road built by the Panchayat. It is said that Maharana Pratap had encountered the Mughal army somewhere here. In the midst of a steep and densely afforested hill under a large banyan tree about 7 kms., away from the village Maharana Pratap is said to have taken shelter with his family. Only a part of this tree is now standing. This place is locally known as 'Ranino Hinchako' or the queen's swing. The village is mainly populated by the tribals.

Limbhoi—Idar Taluka (P. 297) ; G. P.

Limbhoi is about 5 kms., north of Idar. It is known for the temple of Kalnath or Kanvanath Mahadev, one of the five religious centres (*panch-ratna*) in the former Idar State. The other four are the Bhrigu Ashram and the Brahma's temple in Khedbrahma, the Gadadhar temple of Shamalaji and the Bhuvneshvar or Bhavnath temple at Desan.[1] The Kanvanath temple is very old and no authentic information is available as to when and by whom it was built. It is traditionally believed that Kanva Rishi had stayed here near the Navgraha temple which was constructed for him by Nagraja, the king of the Nag-Rajya in a valley near here about 5,000 years ago. Kanva Rishi who was on his way to Prabhas Patan had cured the Nagraja's son of a prolonged serious illness. The foundation stone of the original temple is said to have been laid by the Rishi himself. The temple was renovated in the year 1957 A. D. (Vikram Samvat 2013) Three years later, the

१. ईलवले पंचरत्नानि भृगु: ब्रह्म गदाधर ।
चतुर्थं कल्पनाथस्य पंचमं भुवनेश्वरम् ॥

idols of nine planets (*Navgraha*) were consecrated here. The Nagraja's son, on ascending the throne constructed an Ashram in memory of Kashyap Rishi, (the Kanva's ancestor) and a Shiv temple. Near the Kanvanath temple there is a step-well where cool and crystal clear water is always available. Near this temple there is a *dharmashala* constructed recently.

Limla—Prantij Taluka (P. 750); G. P.

The village is situated about 5 kms., from Prantij, the taluka headquarters. The State Transport buses ply during fair season. A big reservoir known as Limla dam is constructed near here. About 6 kms., downstream near village Karol, is the Karol dam built at a cost of Rs. 11·83 lakhs. It provides irrigation to about 4,000 acres of land in the surrounding areas.

Lusadia—Bhiloda Taluka (P. 825); V. P.

Lusadia is 27 kms., away from Bhiloda, the taluka headquarters with which it is connected by the State Transport bus services. It is a railway station on the Himatnagar-Udaipur metre gauge line. Lusadia was known for its Mission Hospital for treatment of T. B. and other diseases. This has since been closed. The village has a big temple of Rama.

Malpur—Malpur Mahal (P. 3,740): V. P., 23° 22' N. 73° 28' E.

Malpur is the mahal headquarters situated in hilly areas on the river Vatrak. It is 20 kms., from Modasa with which it is connected by the State Transport bus service. Its name is believed to have been derived from Malaji, the Bhil Chief, who ruled here in 1466 A. D Before merger, it was a seat of a small State in the Mahi Kantha Agency. It is a trading centre for surrounding villages with one oil-mill, one rice mill and four ginning factories. The chief produce are custard apples and timru leaves. It has two primary schools, one secondary school, a public dispensary, a post and telegraph office, a *dharmashala* and a rest-house. Being the mahal headquarters, all mahal offices are located here.

At a short distance from here, on the bank of the Vatrak river, there is a Shiv Temple of Rakhodeshwar Mahadev where a fair is held every year on the Gokul Ashtami. Another fair is held in the village at the Bhavnath temple on the Phalgun Sud 11.

Meghraj—Meghraj Taluka (P. 4,682); G. P., 23° 30' N. 73° 31' E.

Meghraj situated on the river Vatrak is the headquarters of the taluka. It is 24 kms., from Modasa and 72 kms., from the Talod railway station on the Himatnagar-Udaipur section of the Western Railway. It is a marketing centre for all surrounding villages. Being the taluka headquarters, all taluka

offices are located here. Besides there is an agricultural seed farm, a primary health centre, waterworks. two primary schools, a secondary school, a rest-house and a post and telegraph office.

Modasa--Modasa Taluka (P. 22,483); N. P., 23° 28′ N. 73° 18′ E.

Modasa, the taluka headquarters, is situated on the river Mazum. It is 48 kms., from Talod railway station on the Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Khedbrahma railway line, 24 kms., from the Raigadh railway station and about 17 kms., from Shamalaji Road railway station on the Himatnagar-Udaipur line of the Western Railway. Besides connecting Himatnagar, Talod, Bayad, Bhiloda, Malpur and Meghraj within the district, the State Transport bus services connect it with Kapadwanj, Nadiad, Ahmedabad, Lunavada, Godhra, Pavagadh, Dohad, Baroda, Chandod, Mehsana, Sidhpur, Ambaji, and Nakhatrana in Kutch, out side the district. The name of the town is said to have been derived from the king Mandhata, the first monarch on the earth. Because of its strategic situation between the plains of Gujarat and the hilly tract of Idar and Dungarpur, it occupied an important position during the period of the Muslim dynasty at Ahmedabad. The Forbes' *Rasmala* described it as a fortified post at the beginning of Sultan Ahmed-I's reign (1415 A. D.). During the 16th century, the fort at Modasa was repaired by Shahab-ud-din, the third Viceroy of the Mughals. During the 18th century, Modasa greatly declined in prosperity. When it came under the British management in 1818, the town was found in a backward condition. However, it quickly recovered, thereafter, and at the end of the nineteenth century, it flourished as an important industrial and trading centre. The Modasa Municipality was established as early as in the year 1859.

Modasa has two ginning factories and three oil-mills. There are 11 Hindu temples, *viz*., Shamalaji Mahadev, Kashivishwanath Mahadev, Ramnath Mahadev, Gebi Mahadev, Swaminarayan temple, Shwetambar Jain temple, Gokulnathji temple, Vithalnathji temple, Odhari Mata temple, Dhunai Mata temple and Ramji Mandir. There are 4 mosques, *viz*., 2 mosques in Vohrawad, 1 in Ghanchiwad and 1 in Kasba. As regards educational institutions, there are seven primary schools, four secondary schools, a College of Education, one Arts College, one Commerce College and one Science College. There is one school for the deaf and mute students. There is a technical and commerce school attached to the Modasa High School. It has an Industrial Training Institute which serves the needs for the whole district. There are many hostels for children of different castes, *viz*., Brahmins, Khadayatas, Patels and Harijans. Modasa has one of the biggest S. T. Depots. The town has its own co-operative bank known as the Modasa Sahakari Nagarik Bank, besides the branches of the State Bank of India, the Dena Bank, the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank and the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank. Being the taluka headquarters, all taluka offices are located here. It has a Government guest-house.

Poshina—Khedbrahma Taluka (P. 1,852); G. P., 24° 22′ N. 73° 02′ E.

Poshina is about 55 kms., from Khedbrahma with which it is connected by the State Transport bus services. Nearby passes the State Highway from Himatnagar to Mota Ambaji (Abu Road). It has been a centre of developmental activities carried on in Adivasi areas under a special multi-purpose project. Under these activities, a primary health centre, a veterinary dispensary, one Ambar Charkha centre and waterworks have been established. The village is also a marketing centre for the Adivasis living in surrounding villages. The white sand-stone temple of 'Parasnath' and the temple of 'Neminath' are places of interest. Besides it has an inspection bungalow, a police station and a co-operative society with godown. Seva Niketan, Khedbrahma runs an Ashram for Adivasi students about 2 kms., from here. As lime-stone is available in abundance, there is a good prospect for opening a cement factory here. A secondary school has been recently started here by the Vividh-Bharati, a voluntary social service organisation.

Prantij—Prantij Taluka (P. 15,402); N. P., 23° 26′ N. 72° 51′ E.

Prantij is the taluka headquarters situated about 23 kms., from Himatnagar, the district headquarters, on the National Highway No. 8 going from Ahmedabad to Delhi. It is also a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. Formerly, it was the chief municipal town and the headquarters of the Prantij sub-division. After merger, it has lost its former importance. It stands on the east bank of the Bokh, a deep wide hollow believed to have once been the bed of the river Hathmati. The Bokh, literally a fissure or chasm, begins near the confluence of the rivers, Hathmati and Sabarmati and runs through the Prantij taluka. Near the Mudhasana village (Prantij taluka), the course of the river Khari is merged into the Bokh. According to a local tradition, the Bokh is the original channel of the river Hathmati, the stream of which is said to have been directed into the Sabarmati by an embankment made under the orders of Sultan Ahmad-I (1411-1443) to increase the water supply of Ahmedabad, his new capital.[1] Under the Ahmedabad kings, Prantij was the centre of eighty-four villages yielding annual revenue of Rs. 5 lakhs. As the former Gazetteer described, "In 1825, with 5,130 inhabitants and 1,685 houses, the town had many good and substantial buildings and was improving. Its exports of clarified butter, grain, and leather were valued at Rs. 19,800, and its imports, silk and cloth from Ahmedabad, and cloth, turbans, robes, wheat and raw sugar from Malwa were valued at Rs 50,920".[2]

Prantij is known for its soap-making industry in Gujarat. There are three soap factories, a ginning factory, a printing press and eight small lathe works. Government has established a fishing centre here at a cost

1. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. IV, *Ahmedabad*, (1879), p. 9.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 347.

of Rs. 3 lakhs. It is the biggest of its type in Gujarat. The 'Bokh' reservoir supplies water for irrigation also. On its bank is a temple of Markandeshwar Mahadev where a fair is held on Gokul Ashtami day. Among other places of worship, there are the Swaminarayan temple, the Shethji's temple of Vaishnav *sampradaya*, the Hariharеshwar Mahadev, the Jabareshwar Mahadev, the Brahmani Mata, the Jumma Masjid and the Nagina Masjid. The village has three primary schools, three secondary schools, a basic training college, two guest-houses and a remand home. The town has branches of the State Bank of India, the Dena Bank and the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank. Being the taluka headquarters, all taluka offices are situated here.

Pratapgadh-Idar Taluka (P. 2,067) ; V. P.

Pratapgadh is situated at a distance of 20 kms., from Idar, the taluka headquarters and 15 kms., from Jadar, the nearest railway station. It is served by the State Transport buses plying between Idar and Bhiloda. At the village site there is a large *Kund* with some beautiful ornamental sculptures and an inscription dated Samvat 1582 (1526 A. D.) belonging to the time of Rao Bharmal. The *Kund* supplies water to the whole village and is in good condition. The place seems to have been more prosperous in the past as it has a number of old Jain temples. Besides, it has a good step-well and an old Shiva temple outside the village.[1] The village has a primary school and a private dispensary.

Raigadh--Himatnagar Taluka (P. 2,465) ; V. P.

Raigadh is a village 29 kms., from Himatnagar with which it is connected by the State Transport bus service. It is a railway station on the recently constructed Himatnagar-Udaipur line of the Western Railway. Within the forest nearby and near the new township of Rajendranagar, there is an ancient temple of Somnath Mahadev and a famous place of Balsamudra. The Balsamudra consists of a small *Kund* in the midst of high hills and dense forest trees. Its water is believed to be sacred. During the days of the princely regime, this was a famous hunting ground in the Idar State.

Raigadh has two primary schools, a public dispensary and a post-office. It is mainly populated by Brahmins. Among objects of religious interest in the village are the *Agnikund* and the *Yagnashala* of Agnihotri Chunilal Sharma, an inhabitant of this village.

Roda Temples—Himatnagar Taluka.

The Roda temples are a group of seven temples situated within a radius of one kilometer from the village Khed and Raisingpura of the

1. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), pp. 81-82.

Himatnagar taluka. The village Raisingpura is also known as Roda because of the ruins (*roda*) of an ancient village found here. Khed is about one kilometer on the east and Raisingpura on the west of these temples. The State Transport buses plying between Himatnagar and Khed stop near these temples. The temples are known for their architectural beauty. Most of them are now in ruins. Carvings on the temples are of the Chaitya type. Such temples showing Buddhist influence are rarely found elsewhere in Gujarat. There is one *Kund* (tank) nearby, one side of which is completely collapsed. The temples are believed to be of Gods Ganesh, Shiv, Vishnu and Surya. At present, idols of Ganesh and Vishnu are seen at this place. These temples are believed to have been constructed during the 9th century. In one of these temples, idols of birds are consecrated. This is perhaps the only temple in India dedicated to birds. The construction of this temple indicates that it is the oldest among the Roda temples. The temple has a *shikhar*, which according to Dr. Haribhai Gaudani[1] is indicative of the fact that Gujarat was the pioneer in building such temples. A note-worthy feature of these temples is that they are built of stone alone. At a little distance from here, there are two temples of Laduvali Mata. They represent the best in art and architecture current between the seventh and the ninth century.

At the entrance of the village Khed, there is a step-well built in Samvat 1474 (1418 A. D.). A mutilated idol of Shiv Parvati, bearing an inscription dated Samvat 1104 (1048 A. D.), probably belonging to the Roda temples, was found in the out-skirts establishing the antiquity of the place.[2]

All these temples are declared ancient monuments.

Sathamba—Bayad Taluka (P. 4,625); V. P.

Sathamba is about 20 kms., from Bayad, the taluka headquarters. The nearest railway station is Kapadwanj (in the adjacent Kaira district) about 35 kms., from here. It is connected by the State Transport bus services with Balasinor, Kapadwanj, Bayad and Modasa. The village was the seat of the former Sathamba State, a small princely State with 18 villages. It has two primary schools, one secondary school, one co-operative ginning factory and a well-established co-operative society. It has the branches of the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank and the Central Bank of India.

Savgadh--Himatnagar Taluka (P. 1,839); G. P.

Savgadh which is also known as Pahanpur is 3 kms., from Himatnagar. the taluka and district headquarters with which it is connected by the

1. Gaudani H. R. (Dr.), *Gujaratno Bhavya Bhutkal*, (1968), p. 94.
2. Inamdar P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), p. 10.

State Transport bus service. It has stone-quarries from which grinding stones, pillars, etc., are made. Savgadh is mainly populated by Momins.

Shamalaji—Bhiloda Taluka (P. 701) ; G. P.

Shamalaji is a famous Hindu pilgrim centre on the bank of the river Meshwo about 20 kms., from Bhiloda, the taluka headquarters. It is situated amidst picturesque natural surroundings on the eastern border of Gujarat in a beautiful valley shut in by well-wooded hills through which the river Meshwo flows. It is on the National Highway No. 8 going to Delhi, and is connected by the State Transport bus routes from Ahmedabad to Udaipur. The nearest railway station is Shamalaji Road at a distance of 10 kms., on the Himatnagar-Udaipur line of the Western Railway constructed recently.

Shamalaji is chiefly a Vaishnavite place and is known in the Puranas as Gadadhar Kshetra. From the large number of fallen shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva, it is evident that at sometime, Shiva worship must have been predominant.[1] The chief temple which goes by the name of Shamalaji is dedicated to Krishna and is a beautiful piece of Hindu architecture. The temple is situated in the midst of hills and is of great sanctity. It is a fine ornamented sculpture inside as well as outside. The carving contains the images of gods and goddesses and illustrations of some incidents from the Ramayana and from the life of Shree Krishna. Shamalaji is known as Kaliya Dev (the dark Lord) among the local Adivasis. The temple was originally built in the 10th or the 11th century and was repaired about 500 years ago. Recently, it has been again renovated by making necessary additions and alterations by Shri Arvindbhai Mafatlal at a total cost of about Rs. 8 lakhs. Built of white sandstone and brick, the temple is surrounded by a wall with a gateway. It is of two storeys supported on pillars and canopy with arches on each side. The elephant is a very favourite emblem in the stone carvings round the temple. On the outer wall, between every two angles, there are large figures of semi-rampant elephants standing out in relief, and in front of the entrance, stands on either side of the doorway a gigantic cement elephant. The temple has a high plinth. The *sabhamandap* is covered by a number of small domes with the largest dome in the centre. Inside the *sabhamandap* stands a black marble idol of Garuda sitting with folded hands. The idol of Shamalaji, about four feet high is also of black marble. It is bigger in size than the one at Dakor or at Dwarka and can rank among the best specimens of the Hindu art and architecture. Above the shrine, a pyramid-based tower rises into a spire like a high-shouldered cone with flattened sides. The front part of the roof consists of a number of small domes springing from a flat roof with domes here and there, the largest being in the centre. Of the two inscriptions in the temple, one is to the left in the upper storey and bears

1. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), p. 23.

the date 108 Samvat and 507 Samvat. As the former Gazetteer recorded, "This writing, cut in stone, is not very archaic and could not be of the date it professes to record. It may be a transcript of an older inscription or the record of an old tradition."[1] The other inscription is on a copper plate at the entrance of the temple which records repairs executed in 1762 A. D., by the then Thakor of Tintoi.

Among many temples and shrines round the main building, three deserve notice. Of these one is called 'Old Shamalaji', though it does not seem as old as the ancient part of the present temple. The other two temples are architecturally interesting. One of them dedicated to Shri Somanarayan, is except the adytum, open on all sides with a flat ceiling, surmounted by a pyramidal roof, supported on plain square stone pillars with carved capitals. The most significant thing about the building is that, at the front and rear and on both sides in the centre of the facade, the roof ends in a triangular pediment composed of boldly sculptured figures. The third is the Mahadev temple, situated under-ground. It is entered through a gateway by a gradually deepening passage. Perhaps the temple was originally built in a hollow, which has filled up. It looks old though not so old as Somnarayan's, the most ancient looking building in the place. Except this and the great Shamalaji temple in which worship is still carried on, the numerous other temples are deserted and fallen into ruin.

A large annual fair known as the Shamalaji fair is held on Kartik Sud 15 (October). This fair, once of great importance, had in consequence of the disorders of the latter years of the eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth centuries, fallen into disuse and was restored by Sir J. Outram, the Political Agent, in 1838. On guaranteeing certain small payments to the petty chiefs, the safety of traders was ensured, and the fair became the most important resort not only for the local Adivasis but for the merchants from all parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Since then, the fair maintained its position as an important centre of trade right up to the present century. Even with the regular supply of goods now made possible by the network of roads and railways, the importance of the fair as a trading centre still continues. The fair still draws large crowds, mostly Adivasis, who attend it for merriment. The fair continues for a period of thirty days. Another fair is held on Shravan Vad 8 (Janmashtami day).

The remains of an ancient (205 A. D.) Buddhist *stupa* with a *vihara* of 36 rooms by its side were discovered in 1963 at Devni Mori, a village less than a km., from here. The *stupa* contained the bodily remains of Lord Buddha and his beautiful terra-cotta idols. The inscription on

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880), p. 440.

casket found from the *stupa* suggests that the original name of the village Shamalaji was Karambuk.[1] This is also supported by the fact that the existing tank is known as Karmabai Talav.

Among other places, there is a beautiful shrine of a local goddess, the Harishchandra's Chori and the Brahmanand Ashram. The small temple of Shri Trilokinath with a beautiful idol of Lord Shiv is near the Shamalaji temple. The ancient temple of Shri Ranchhodji is on the opposite bank of the river Meshwo. Opposite to the Shamalaji temple there is the Khakchawk temple, which has idols of Girdharilalji and Laxmiji. The Ananta-Brahma shrine popularly known as the temple of *Kalshi Chhokarani-Ma* (Mother of many children) near the Vishram Ghat on the river has a beautiful idol made of black basalt and believed to date back to the fifth century A. D. The idol is not fully identified according to the principles of Hindu Iconography.[2] It appears to be a male figure, probably Virat Swarup of Bhagwan Vishnu with eight hands and three visible heads and a number of small figures around the head. The local people likening the small figures to children have termed it *Kalshi Chhokarani-Ma*. As the idol has eight hands it is also known as Ashta-Bhuja-Brahmaji.[3] Near this Anant Brahma shrine, there is the Raghunathji temple known as Govardhannath temple. Behind this shrine is a sand-stone image called by the local persons *Sagar-peta Rishi* (the ocean-bellied sage) or Agastya. Near the Shamalaji temple there is an ancient step-well. It is declared as a protected monument. Shamalaji is a centre of the District Sarvodaya Kendra established during the Second Five Year Plan. The Meshwo irrigation dam constructed at a total cost of Rs. 2.46 crores is situated nearby.

The river Meshwo which passes by Shamalaji forms many pools. One of them called Nagdharo near Vishram Ghat is resorted to by people for cure of evil spirits. All those who attend the fair take bath in this pool, which has a perennial flow of water.

There is a good *dharmashala* and a Panchayat rest-house near the temple in addition to a guest-house of the Public Works Department at a distance of one km., from the Shamalaji temple. The village has a police station in charge of the Police Sub-Inspector.

Shampur Modasa Taluka (P. 1,545): G. P.

Shampur is about 20 kms., from Modasa the taluka headquarters. It is served by the State Transport bus service connecting it with Modasa

1. The name is said to have been derived from the word *kar* (hand) and *ambuk* (water) as Brahma, while performing a *yagna*, for which he had invited Brahmins, is said to have washed their hands and feet here with water.
2. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), p. 24.
3. SHETH VALLABHDAS J., *Shamalaji Yatra Dham*, (1970), p. 10.

and Himatnagar. The nearest railway station is Sunokh on the Himatnagar-Udaipur railway line. The village is known for an ancient Shiv temple situated near a hill. A lamp is kept burning on the top of the hill during the Diwali festival. There is a tank known as Ranila Talav which adds to the beauty of the surroundings.

Tajpuri—Himatnagar Taluka (P. 1,751) ; G. P.

Tajpuri is picturesquely situated on the bank of the river Hathmati, about 6 kms., from Hapa Road station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. It was the seat of the former chief of the Makwana tribe holding three villages and paying tribute to the Gaekwad. The earth available from the cliffs of the river is utilized in tanning industry. Tajpuri is known for its handloom industry. Among religious places, there is a Jain Derasar and a temple of Rama. The village has its own post-office.

Talod- Prantij Taluka (P. 10,935) ; V. P., 23° 21′ N. 72° 56′ E.

Talod, one of the main commercial towns of the district, is situated on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma railway line of the Western Railway. It is 4 kms., from the Harsol village from where the Ahmedabad-Modasa State Highway passes. It is a centre of wholesale trade in *gur*, cotton, groundnut, groundnut-oil, food grains, etc. There is a marketing yard, an Agriculture Research Centre, two ginning factories and three oil-mills. It has the branches of the Baroda Bank, the Dena Bank and the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank. There are three primary schools, one secondary school and one Arts, Commerce and Science College. Talod has one Sarvajanik hospital.

Tintoi - Modasa Taluka (P. 4,741) : G. P.

Tintoi is 19 kms., from Modasa, the taluka headquarters with which it is connected by the State Transport bus services. It is on the State Highway going from Modasa to Shamalaji. The nearest railway station is Shamalaji on the Himatnagar-Udaipur line of the Western Railway. Tintoi is a trading centre for surrounding villages. There is a Parsvanath Jain temple known as Morino-Parasnath. The village has two primary schools (one for girls), one secondary school, one public dispensary, a veterinary dispensary, and one post-office. The village is electrified and has its own waterworks. The branches of the Dena Bank and the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank are located here.

Torda—Bhiloda Taluka (P. 1,496) ; G. P.

Torda is 10 kms., away from Bhiloda, the taluka headquarters. It is near the Rajasthan border. The State Transpost buses ply here during

fair season connecting it with Ahmedabad, Himatnagar and Modasa. Being the birth-place of Shri Gopalanand Swami, a leading saint of the Swaminarayan Sampradaya, it is a place of pilgrimage for its followers. There is an old Swaminarayan temple in the village. The ancient temple of Achaleswar Mahadev is on the bank of the river Budheli, also known as Dev Tirth Ganga. A fair is held on Vaishakh Sud 3-Akshaya Trutiya. Besides there are the temple of Bhuleshwar Mahadev and a Jain Derasar. The Dhareshwar Mahadev temple where the Swami had performed penance is in the midst of hills nearby. The village has a primary school, Shri Gopal Vidyalaya started by the Swaminarayan Mission, one Ayurvedic dispensary, a veterinary dispensary and a post-office.

Ubharan—Malpur Mahal (P. 2,139) ; V. P.

Ubharan is about 19 kms., from Malpur, the headquarters of the mahal. The nearest railway station is Kapadwanj (Kaira district) about 48 kms., away. The State Transport buses ply here during the fair season. There is an ancient step-well from where water springs perennially. This fact is said to have given the name 'Ubharan' to the village. The temple of Surpaneshwar Mahadev about one km., from here is a beautiful picnic spot. The village has a secondary school, a post-office and two oil-mills.

Vadagam -Modasa Taluka (P. 3,470) ; V. P.

Vadagam is situated on the river Mazam about 22 kms., from Talod, a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. It is situated on the State Highway going to Modasa which is about 25 kms., from here. Vadagam is connected by the State Transport routes with Ahmedabad, Talod, Modasa and Bayad. It was the seat of the former Thakor of Rehwar Rajputs, ranking in the fifth class. It has stone-quarries which provide employment to about 2,000 persons, a factory for preparing iron brass, a cement pipe factory, two primary schools, a secondary school, a post-office, a primary health centre and one allopathic dispensary.

Vadali--Idar Taluka (P. 10,030) ; V. P., 23° 57′ N. 73° 02′ E.

Vadali is a very ancient town situated about 19 kms. north of Idar, the taluka headquarters. It is a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway and is connected with Idar by the State Transport bus services. It was a large and flourishing place as early as the 6th century as mentioned by the Chinese traveller Hieu-en-Tsiang who calls it 'Ochali'. The place was also known as 'Vata-Palli' in the 12th century. Hieu-en-Tsiang is said to have visited this place during his travels from Malwa to Valabhi. As far back as the 11th century it had been a prosperous town and the centre of a very large kingdom. The former Gazetteer referred Vadali as "a prosperous town with a population of 5,048 souls and

many good houses " Among places of interests are Vaijanath Mahadev, a Jain temple and the temple of Chamunda Mata. Near the town there is a stone-quarry.

An inscription of Samvat 1264 (1208 A. D.) in the Vaijnath Mahadev temple about the rebuilding of its Mandap and another of Samvat 1329 (1273 A. D.) on a stone pillar in the compound belonging to the time of king Arjundev of Gujarat, about a grant of some land or some special privilege to the temple and the third in the Shantinath Jain temple dated Samvat 1275 (1219 A. D.) at the foot of an idol amply testify to the antiquity of the place.[1]

The village has two primary schools, a secondary school, two oil-mills and two ginning factories. The branches of the Sabarkantha District Co-operative Bank and the Baroda Bank are situated here.

Vartol—Khedbrahma Taluka (P. 750) ; G. P.

The village Vartol is situated about 5 kms.. from Khedbrahma, the taluka headquarters. There is a famous temple of Chamunda Mata near here on the bank of a pond. The State Transport buses ply between Khedbrahma and Vartol during fair season.

Vatrakgadh—Bayad Taluka (P. 754) ; G. P.

Vatrakgadh is a small village 5 kms., from Bayad the taluka headquarters. It is situated on the State Highway from Kapadwanj to Modasa. The nearest railway station is Kapadwanj at a distance of 35 kms. It has a temple of Dhareshwar Mahadev on the river Vatrak and a seed multiplication farm. Shri Fatehsinh Rao Gaekwad General Hospital has been established here at a cost of about Rs. 20 lakhs with a capacity to accommodate 300 beds. The village has a rest-house and a post-office.

Vijaynagar—Vijaynagar Mahal (P. 3,110) ; G. P., 24° 00′ N. 73° 17′ E.

Vijaynagar is the mahal headquarters situated about 56 kms., away from Idar, the railway station on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Raliway. It was the capital of the former Vijaynagar State also known as the Polo State. The place is surrounded by dense forest and hills. The main forest products are timber, charcoal, gum, honey, etc. It is predominently inhabited by the tribals and is the main trading centre in the surrounding areas particularly Rajasthan.

In the centre of the village, there is a Digambar Jain temple. The palace of the former ruler is on a hillock.

1. INAMDAR P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State*, (1936), pp. 10-11.

Being the headquarters of the mahal, it has all mahal offices. It has a Forest Ranger's Office and a post office. There are the branches of the Sabarkantha District Central Co-operative Bank, the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank and the Dena Bank. It has a primary school, a secondary school, a primary health centre and a veterinary dispensary.

Vireshwar--Vijaynagar Mahal (P. 243) ; G. P.

Vireshwar is a very small village, 29 kms., from Vijaynagar, the mahal headquarters and connected with Idar by the State Transport bus route. The nearest railway station is Kadiadra, 14 kms., from here on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma line of the Western Railway. It is famous for the Vireshwar Mahadev, an important religious place in the district where a big fair is held on Vaishakhi *Poornima* every year. A *dharmashala* is attached to the temple. Behind the temple there is a small stream with a perennial flow of water. Surrounded as the place is with mountains and dense forests, it can be developed as summer resort. It is used as a picnic spot.

Near the village there is one ancient step-well with a tower built during the State regime.

PLATES

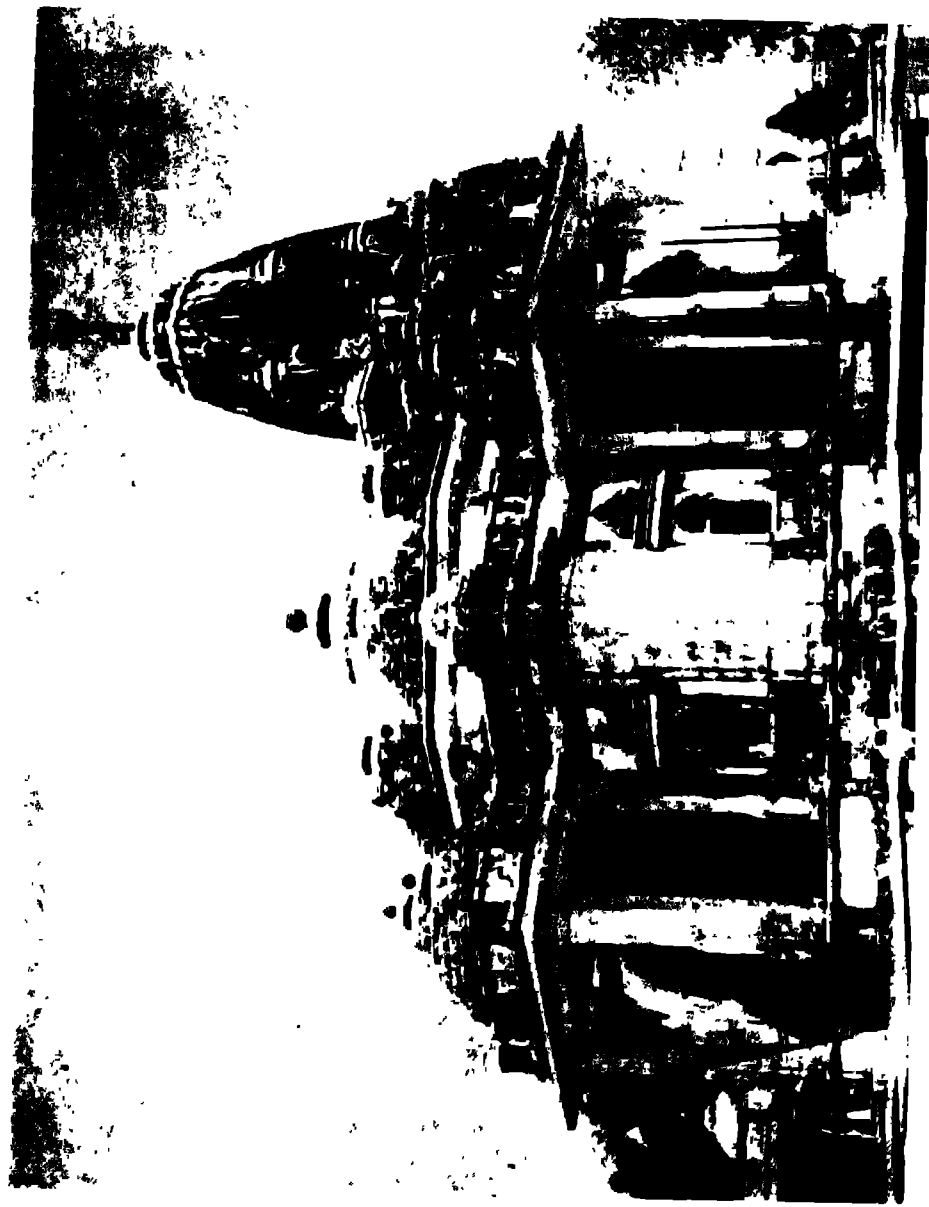
LIST OF PLATES

(Bk) H-57 -93 (Lino)

1. The Kirti-Stambh (Victory Tower) built in the 17th century in the compound of a Jain temple at Bhiloda

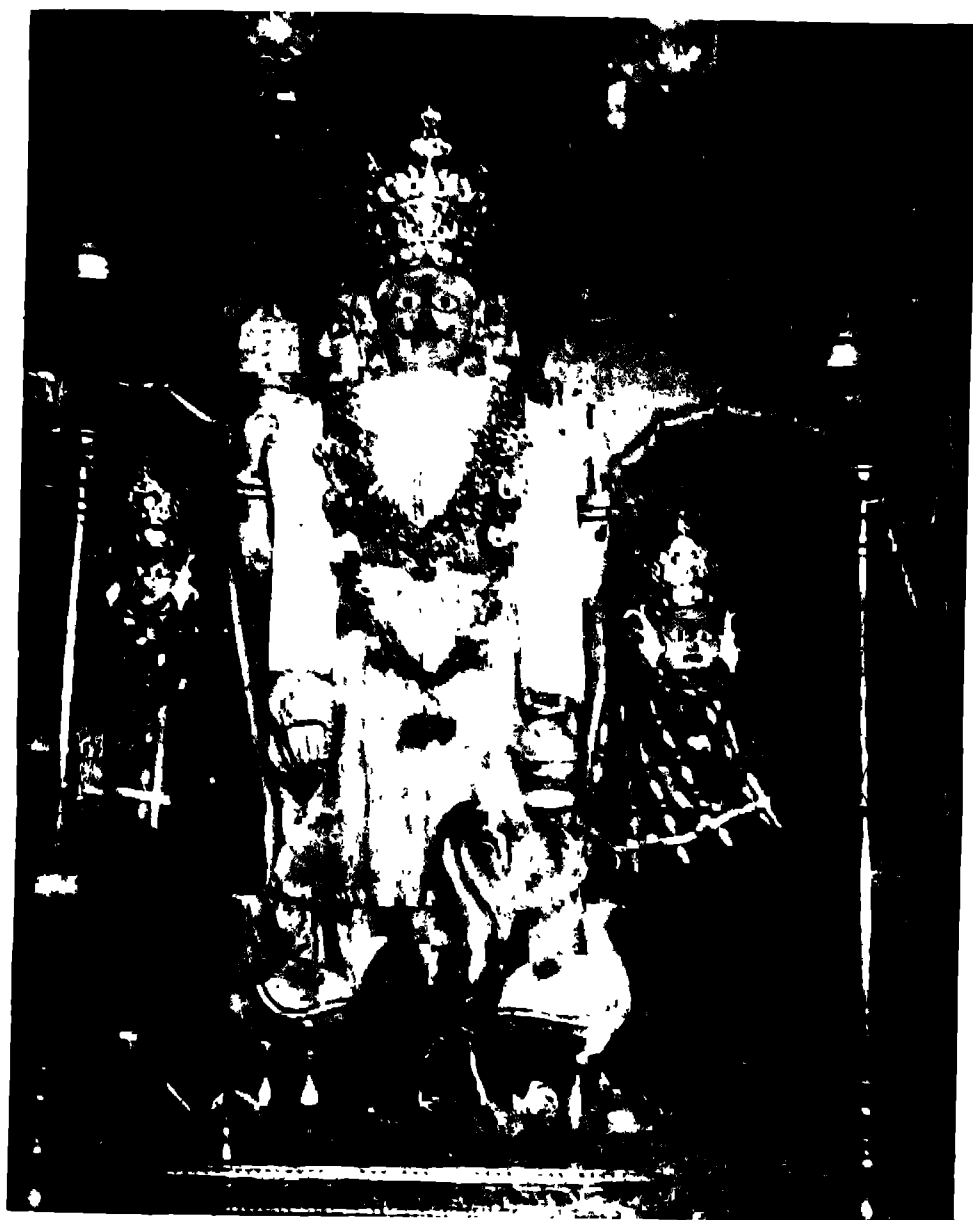
2. The well-known temple of Shamalaji at Shamalaji, built in the 11th or

3. The Idol of Shri Shamalaji or Gadadhar in the Shamalaji temple, Bhiloda taluka.

4. The *Shyam Sarovar* on the Meshwo river at Shamalaji, Bhiloda taluka.

5. The temple of Bhavnath Mahadev (about 500 years old) at Desan, Bhiloda taluka.

6. The Chyavan Rishi Ashram at Desan, Bhiloda taluka.

7. The Hathmati Reservoir near Fatehpur village, Bhiloda taluka.

8. The magnificent idol of Shri Shamalaji at Gadhada, believed to be 500 years old, near the site of the Dharoi Dam, Khedbrahma taluka

9. The images of Brahmaji and his consorts at Khedbrahma.

10. The temple of Nana-Ambaji at Khedbrahma.

11. The Sun temples at Roda (9th century) built between Jambudi and Khed (Chandarni) villages in Himatnagar taluka.

12. An ancient step-well at Ilol. Himatnagar taluka.

13. The Ilvadurg (*Idario Gadh*) or the Fort of Idar.

14. Wooden toy maker's shop at Idar.

15. The temple of Sarneshwar Mahadev of the 12th century A. D. at Abhapur, Vijaynagar mahal.

16. An Adivasi fair in the Poshina area of the Sabarkantha district.

17. The Galateshwar Mahadev temple on the bank of the Sabarmati river at Galesara, Prantij taluka.

18. An Adivasi Youth

By courtesy of the Tribal Research and Training Institute, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad.

19. Three Garasia Maids

By courtesy of the Tribal Research and Training Institute, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad

26. A view of Adivasi Fair

By courtesy of the Tribal Research and Training Institute, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad.

21. A Garasia group dance
By courtesy of the Tribal Research and Training Institute, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad.

22. An Adivasi boy engaged in archery

23. An aged Adivasi from the Poshina area (Khedbrahma taluka) twirling his grey moustaches.

24. An Adivasi *Jawaru* dance in the Chitravichitra fair in the Poshina area

25. The earthern mound at Devni Mori (Bhiloda taluka) before excavations (1959).

26. *Stupa* discovered at Devni Mori (Bhiloda taluka) after excavations (1962), which presumably relates to the Kshatrap period.

27. A terracotta image of Buddha from the *Stupa* at Devni Mori (Bhiloda taluka).

28. Inscribed stone relic-ca t Devni Mori (Bhiloda taluka). The inscription ar 127 mentions that relics of Buddha in this box.

29. Seal with Buddhist *mantra* from excavations at Devni Mori.

GLOSSARY

A

Adivasi ..	.. An aborigine, a tribal
Advaita ..	.. A doctrine of the Hindu philosophy propounded by Adi Shankaracharya holding that there is no duality between the soul and the God, but complete identity of the individual with the supreme spirit
Agarbatti ..	.. An incensed stick
Agnikund	.. A place where the sacred fire is kept burning
Akika ..	.. A Muslim ceremony to be performed at certain intervals within a month after child birth
Ashramshala ..	.. A residential school for the tribal children

B

Babashahi ..	.. A kind of currency used in the Gaekwad territory till 1901 A. D.
Balmandir ..	.. A school for children below 5 years
Bandobasta ..	.. Arrangement , order
Bhagat ..	.. Priest, a devotee
Bhagbatai ..	.. Crop-share
Bhajan ..	.. Devotional song
Bhajan Mandali	.. A band of devotees singing devotional songs
Bhat ..	.. Cooked rice

(Bk) H-57—94 (Lino)

B

Bhatha .. .. A shallow sand bank, shoal or alluvial bank of a river

Bhavai .. .. Folk-drama performed by itinerant groups

Bidi .. .. An indigenous cigarette made from *timru* leaves and tobacco

Bigha .. .. A unit for measuring land

C

Chaitya .. .. A Buddhist sanctuary which enshrines a relic of Buddha

Chavana .. .. A mixture of salty preparations such as *sev, chevda, dal, ganthia,* etc.,

Chhatralaya .. .. Students' hostel

Chhint .. .. Printed cloth

Chora .. .. A public place in a village

Chori .. .. The square enclosure wherein the bride and the bridegroom take ceremonial rounds of the sacred fire during performance of the marriage ceremony

Chowkiyat .. .. A guard, a watchman

Churmu .. .. A sweet preparation of wheat flour mixed with *ghee* and *gur* or sugar

D

Dal .. .. Split pulse

Dantal .. .. An agricultural implement used for breaking clods on ploughed land

Dapun .. .. Dues paid to the caste-Panch, etc.. on certain occasions

D

Darbargadh	Residence of a ruler; royal palace
Dargahs	Tombs of Muslim saints
Darshan	Sight or glimpse of a deity
Deshi	Local, indigenous
Dharmashala	A public resting place in a village; a rest-house
Dhotia	A white waist cloth worn by males

F

Farsan	Salty preparations mostly of gram flour and fried in oil
Fouzdar	A police officer

G

Garba	A sportive dance of females in Gujarat
Garbi	A sportive dance performed by males in Gujarat
Gaushala	A cattle-shed for cows
Gazal	A type of poetic composition
Ghani	An indigenous oil-mill
Gharkhed	Land under personal cultivation
Giras	Land given to cadets or junior members of a Chieftain's family and their descendants for maintenance
Goradu	Light and sandy soil
Gur	Jaggery
Guru	Preceptor

H

Hamal .. .. A porter

I

Inam .. .. A kind of land tenure

J

Jagir .. .. Land granted to Jagirdars by chiefs for some special service rendered or to be rendered

K

Kamdar .. .. An official in petty State

Kampa .. .. A big farm held by Kanbis, Patidars and others where modern tools and techniques are employed for agricultural production in the Sabarkantha district

Kazi .. .. A Muslim judge

Kelvani Mandal .. An educational institution

Kevaladvaita .. .. The doctrine of absolute identity with Brahma

Khalsa .. .. Agricultural land held directly from the State

Khar land .. .. Saline land

Kharpi .. . A small scraper

Khata .. .. An account

Khichdi .. .. Hotchpotch

Kodali .. .. A spade

Kodio .. .. Small shells

K

Kotar	A deep and broad piece of eroded land
Kuka	Small round stones used in game by girls
Kumkum	Vermilion; red turmeric powder used for a mark on the forehead by Hindu women
Kund	Pond, reservoir

L

Lajjahoma	One of the most important rituals of the Hindu marriage. The ceremony of scattering fried rice or grain denoting a symbol of fruitfulness and prosperity. While scattering grain, the wife prays for her husband's long life
Lapsi	A sweet preparation of wheat flour and sugar or molasses
Lathi	A stick

M

Mahajan	Association of merchants
Malmal	Muslin
Man	A maund
Mandal	An institution or organisation formed by a group of persons with some specific purpose
Matha	Monastery
Mukhi	A village headman
Mulkgiri	Annual armed expeditions of Marathas for exacting tributes from chiefs, talukdars, etc.

N

Nagarsheth ..	.. Leading citizen of a town/city
Nakabandhi ..	.. Placing of guards at the crossing of roads
Nala ..	.. Cause-way, nullah
Nandi ..	.. One of the principal attendants of Lord Shiva, who is installed in the temple facing the deity
Nirvan ..	.. Attainment of absolution ; liberation

P

Pachhedi ..	.. A sheet of cloth used to warp round one's body
Pan ..	.. Betel-leaf
Pathshala ..	.. An oriental school
Patta ..	.. A deed of lease, tenure
Prasad ..	.. Offering to deity, later on distributed among worshipers
Pujari ..	.. Temple priest

R

Rannadev ..	.. Name of a family deity
Ras ..	.. A type of folk-dance; a sportive dance performed jointly by males and females
Ras Mandali ..	.. A band of persons playing the sportive dance
Rotla ..	.. A loaf

S

Sabhamandap ..	.. A meeting hall, pandal or the assembly hall in front of a temple

S

Safai	Cleaning
Sallas	Sarees
Samadhi	A memorial raised to honour a particular saint
Samiti	Association, union, assembly
Sampradaya	A sect, cult, religion
Sanyasta	Asceticism
Saptapadi	Seven steps taken together by a bride and a bridegroom round sacrificial fire during the Hindu marriage ceremony which make the marriage complete
Sarai	A public resting place for Muslim
Sarpanch	The Chairman of the village panchayat
Satees	Chaste and virtuous wives
Shiro	A sweet preparation of wheat, *ghee* and sugar
Shraddha	Obsequies ceremony performed for the salvation of the departed soul
Subedar	The Governor of a province under Muslim rule
Sultan	A Muslim monarch, a king
Swayamvara	Choice of a husband made by the girl herself

T

Talati	Village accountant
Talukdar	A land holder under the Talukdar tenure in certain districts of Gujarat

T

Tirthankar .. .. One of the 24 incarnations of God worshipped by Jains

U

Udhad .. .. A lum sum

V

Vishishtadvaita .. .. Qualified non-duality; a doctrine of Hindu philosophy propounded by Ramanuja

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